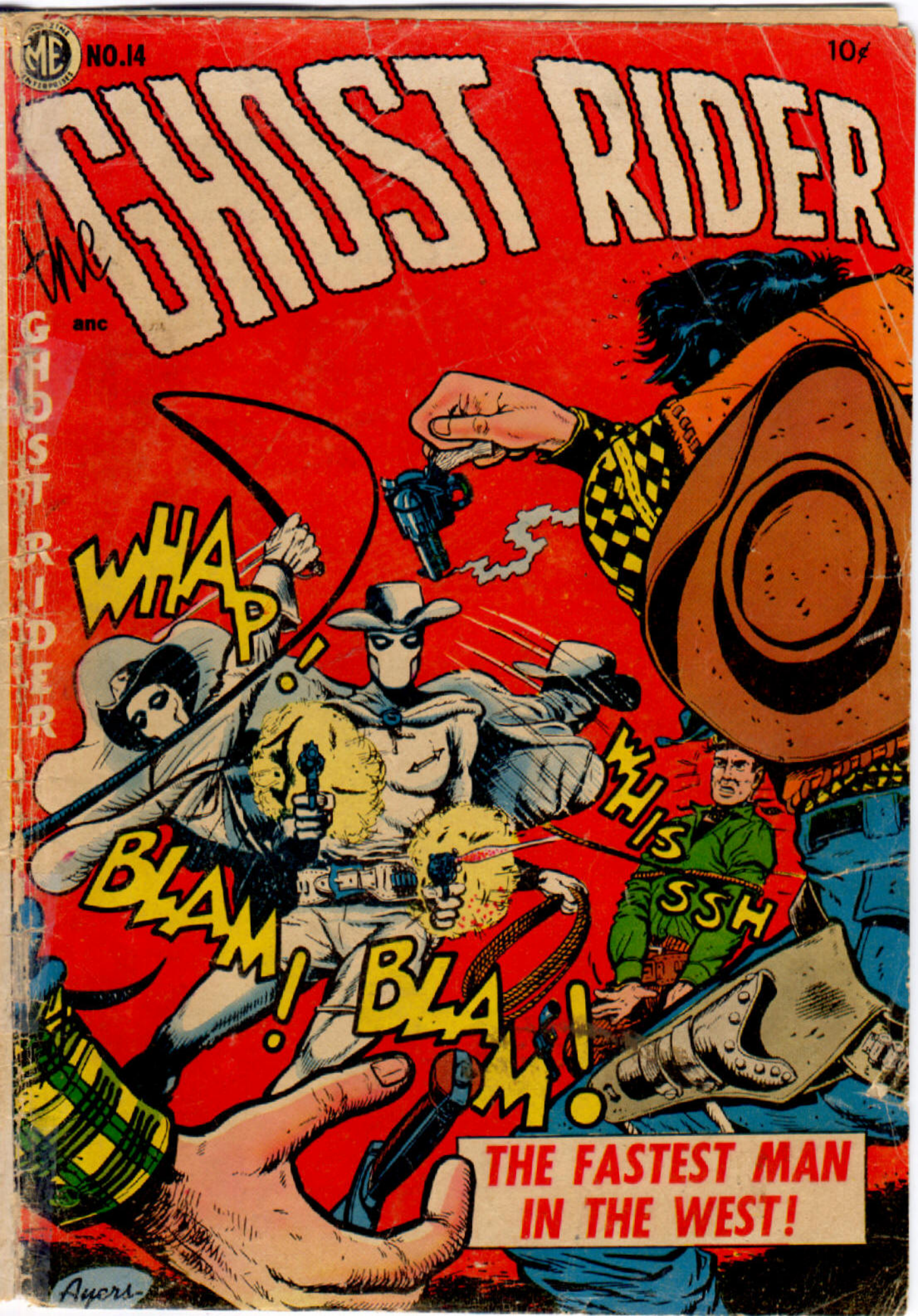

NO.14
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The GHOST RIDER
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GHOST RIDER
WHAP!
BLAM!
BLAM!
WHISSSH
THE FASTEST MAN IN THE WEST!
Ayers-

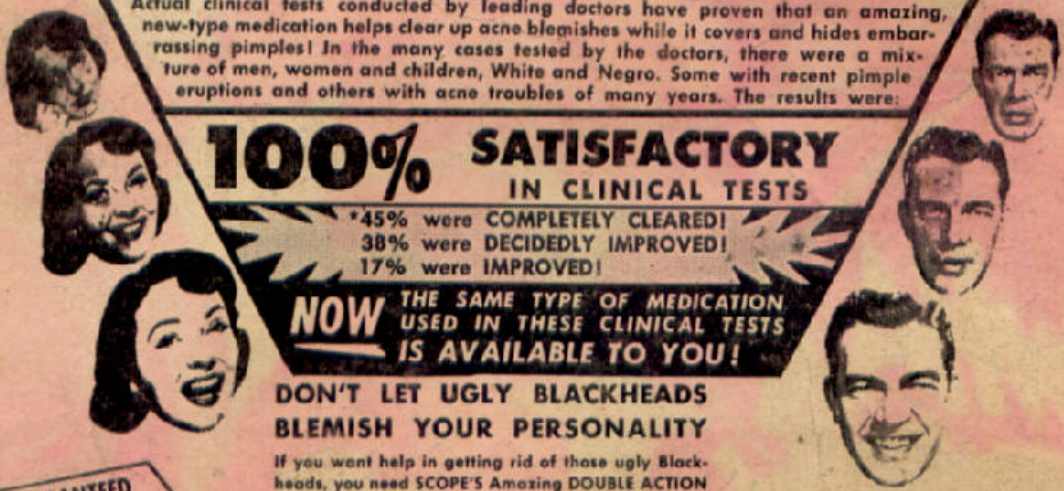
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Reader's Digest Reports Good News for all sufferers from PIMPLES

ACNE, TEEN-AGE PIMPLES, SURFACE SKIN BLEMISHES and IRRITATIONS!

AMAZING DOUBLE-ACTION SKIN TREATMENT THAT CONCEALS AS IT MEDICATES

Actual clinical tests conducted by leading doctors have proven that an amazing, new-type medication helps clear up acne blemishes while it covers and hides embarrassing pimples! In the many cases tested by the doctors, there were a mixture of men, women and children, White and Negro. Some with recent pimple eruptions and others with acne troubles of many years. The results were:



100% SATISFACTORY IN CLINICAL TESTS

*45% were COMPLETELY CLEARED!
38% were DECIDEDLY IMPROVED!
17% were IMPROVED!

NOW THE SAME TYPE OF MEDICATION USED IN THESE CLINICAL TESTS IS AVAILABLE TO YOU!

DON'T LET UGLY BLACKHEADS BLEMISH YOUR PERSONALITY

If you want help in getting rid of those ugly Blackheads, you need SCOPE'S Amazing DOUBLE ACTION Skin Formula. See how fast and easy it aids in clearing the skin of those unsightly blackheads. It loosens those pore-clogging impurities and softens the hard deposits underneath and around the blackheads, making their removal simple and effective. Scope Medicated Cream, with its successfully tested ingredients, instantly and completely covers up all skin irritations, leaving your skin clearer, smoother, and more attractive looking.

Thousands like yourself today enjoy the wonderful skin beauty that would normally be theirs—thanks to Scope. Scope Medicated Skin Formula is made in special tones to match your skin—and almost like magic hides those unsightly externally caused blemishes while the medication is acting. Just a few minutes a day may help you toward the complexion that's lovable to kiss and touch!

GUARANTEED TO HELP YOUR SKIN LOOK LOVELIER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE IN A FEW MINUTES OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

Leading SKIN SPECIALISTS RECOMMEND THIS DOUBLE TREATMENT



Physicians prescribe two ways to help control skin eruptions: First—clean the skin and clear the pores of clogging dirt. Second—inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin.

The clinically-proven ingredients in the scientifically-tested formula of Scope Products have been compounded to help overcome these external causes of pimples and irritations. Actually starves pimples because it helps remove the oils that skin specialists often associate with acne!

SKIN DOCTORS STATE THAT TO NEGLECT YOUR SKIN MAY PROLONG YOUR COMPLEXION TROUBLE AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO CLEAR UP!

DELAY MAY BE HARMFUL—
Send for Scope Medicated Skin treatment with its special "cover-up" action!
MAIL COUPON AT ONCE!

TEEN-AGERS and GROWN-UPS REGAIN NEW POPULARITY

People of all ages have discovered a new-found joy with a clearer lovelier looking skin! If you've been hoping to improve your complexion . . . to increase your popularity with the opposite sex . . . to climb to success in the business world—we recommend this amazing treatment. Just a few minutes each day can yield more gratifying results than you ever dreamed possible!

HIDES PIMPLES ON LIGHT, AVERAGE & DARK COMPLEXIONS!

To help people of all complexions quickly conceal their externally caused blemishes—Scope Medicated Skin Formula is come in special tones. No matter how many other treatments or old-fashioned preparations have disappointed you—here is a product that guarantees to improve your appearance or double your money back! Scope Medicated Skin Formula is GREASELESS, FAST-DRYING and STAINLESS! Make-up can easily be applied over it.

SURE, QUICK RESULTS—WORKS LIKE MAGIC!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK!

If you are not delighted in every way by the improved condition and general appearance of your skin in just 10 days, return the unused portion and we will promptly send you double the purchase price! You have nothing to lose but worrying over your bad complexion. WE TAKE ALL THE RISK!

SEND NO MONEY

You fill out the coupon and by return mail we will immediately ship you the Scope Treatment in a plain package. Try Scope yourself! If you are not entirely satisfied, return the unused portion for refund of DOUBLE your purchase price.

Mail FREE TRIAL Coupon TODAY!

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1 Orchard St., New York 2, N. Y.

ACT NOW!

☐ Please send me on a 10-Day Trial the Scope Medicated Skin Treatment. I will pay postman $1.98 plus postage on delivery. If not entirely satisfied, I may return the unused portion for double my purchase price back.

Check ☐ Light ☐ Medium ☐ Dark Complexion

Name _____

Address _____

City & Zone _____ State _____

☐ SAVE MONEY. Enclose $2. now and we pay postage. Same double your money-back either way you order.

APO, FPO, Canada and Foreign no COD's

SCOPE PRODUCTS CO., Dept. JS-2, 1 Orchard St., New York 2, N.Y.

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THE GHOST RIDER
A MURDERER WAS AT LARGE— A FIEND WHO STRUCK DOWN VICTIM AFTER VICTIM, AND ALWAYS LEFT THE CORPSES WITH THEIR SHIRTS RIPPED OPEN AND THEIR CHESTS EXPOSED! WAS HE A MADMAN— OR WAS THEIR SOME GRIM PURPOSE BEHIND HIS MACABRE MISDEEDS?
SO BENUMBED WAS THE TERRITORY WITH TERROR, ITS GOOD PEOPLE WERE CERTAIN THAT NOT EVEN THE GHOST RIDER COULD SOLVE
"THE TREASURE CHEST MURDERS!"
ON A DREARY MOONLESS NIGHT IN DALTON CITY, THE MURDERER MAKES HIS FIRST APPEARANCE!
THERE COMES THE DOCTOR NOW! I KNEW IF I WAITED LONG ENOUGH, HE'D BE MAKING A NIGHT-CALL—
THE LASSO HISSES SWIFTLY THROUGH THE AIR, SETTLES ONTO THE DOCTOR'S SHOULDERS, AND THEN TIGHTENS INTO A DEADLY NOOSE!
AARGH!

THE DOCTOR HANGS THERE, LIMP NOW, SWAYING IN THE BREEZE...

...BUT **NOT** FOR LONG!

THE GHOST RIDER, EVER-VIGILANT IN HIS CEASELESS STRUGGLE AGAINST EVIL, HAS COME GALLOPING OUT OF THE NIGHT WITH HIS BLAZING SIX-SHOOTER!

DEAD... AND THE CULPRIT HAS FLED OVER THE ROOFTOPS! I SHALL NOT REST TILL THAT FOUL MURDERER IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE!

A WEEK HAS PASSED...

LOOKS LIKE THUH GALOOT THET KILLED THUH DOC AIN'T NEVER GONNA GIT CAUGHT!

YEAH— AN' MEANWHILE THUH TERRITORY'S WITHOUT A SAWBONES!

HEY! LOOK— HERE COMES THUH STAGE!

GENTLEMEN, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF— I'M ALBERT KETCHUM, MEDICAL DOCTOR. I AIM TO SET UP OFFICE HERE IN DALTON CITY, AND JUST TO GET ACQUAINTED, I'M OFFERING A ***FREE*** *MEDICAL EXAMINATION* TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD IN THE TERRITORY!

THE NEW DOCTOR'S GENEROUS OFFER IS ACCEPTED BY ALL THE WOMEN-FOLK WHO DRAG THEIR CHILDREN ALONG WITH THEM. BUT THE MEN HANG BACK...

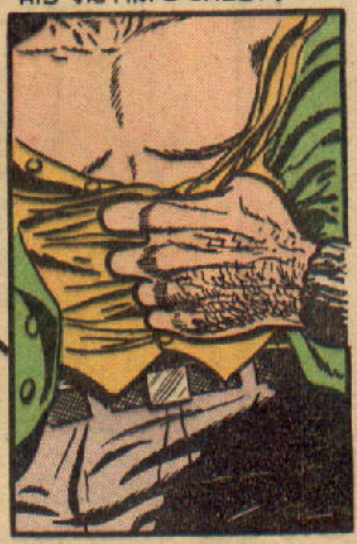
AIN'T NO NEED FER A GROWN MAN TO SEE A SAWBONES 'LESS HE'S FULL OF BUCK-SHOT OR SUMPTHIN'!

YUH'RE DURNED RIGHT!

AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD, ON A NIGHT WHEN THE MOON IS OBSCURED BY THICK BLACK CLOUDS, THE MURDERER STALKS HIS **SECOND VICTIM**....



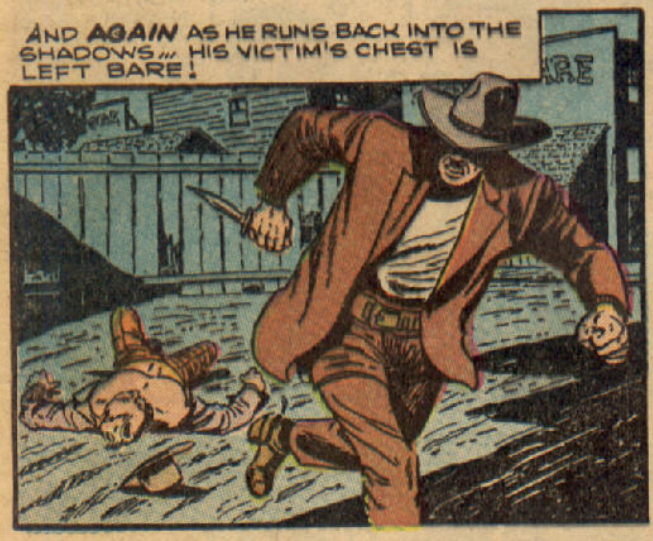
THIS TIME HE BENDS DOWN — AND A MOMENT LATER, CLOTH RIPS HISSINGLY AS HE BARES HIS VICTIM'S CHEST!



A WEEK LATER, THE MURDERER STRIKES *AGAIN!*



AND *AGAIN* AS HE RUNS BACK INTO THE SHADOWS... HIS VICTIM'S CHEST IS LEFT BARE!

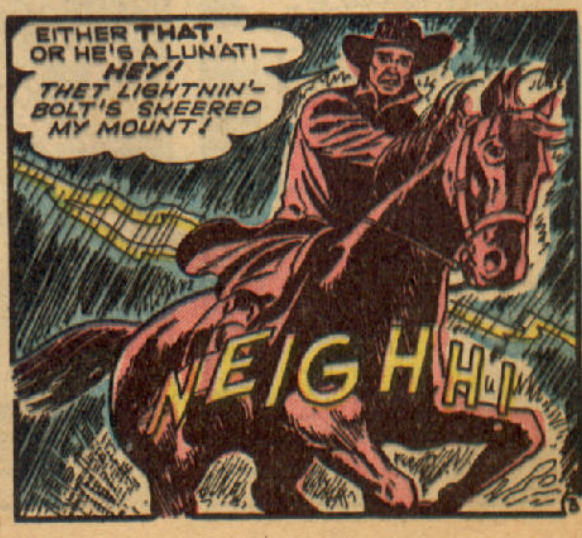


AFTER THE **FOURTH** MURDER—



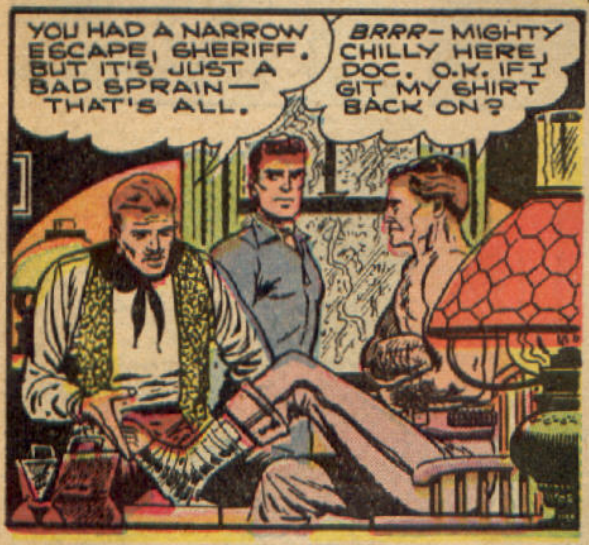
LAYING ASIDE HIS *GHOST RIDER* REGALIA, REX FURY, FEDERAL MARSHAL, TALKS WITH THE SHERIFF THE NEXT DAY...






HE'S HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THAT PRECIPICE!
I'M STUCK! C-CAN'T PULL FREE FROM THE STIRRUP!


MADE IT!
OWW! M-MY FOOT! Y-YUH BETTER TAKE ME TO THAT NEW DOCTOR!

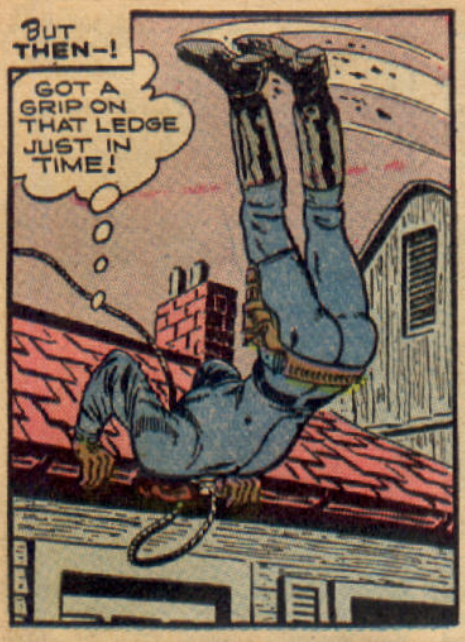

YOU HAD A NARROW ESCAPE, SHERIFF. BUT IT'S JUST A BAD SPRAIN— THAT'S ALL.
BRRR— MIGHTY CHILLY HERE, DOC. O.K. IF I GIT MY SHIRT BACK ON?

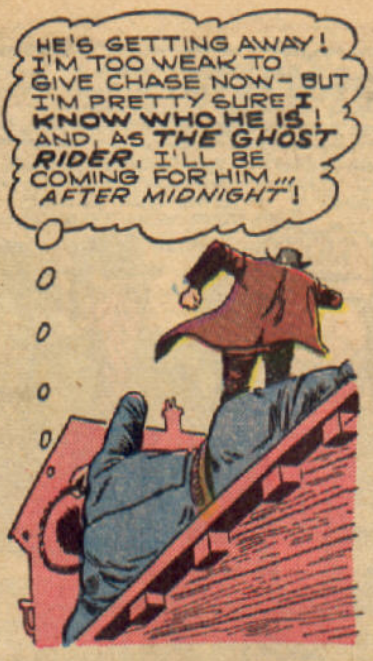

SOMETHING PUZZLING YOU, MARSHAL?
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE. BUT I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT...
NO, DOC, NOTHING AT ALL.


THAT NIGHT—
CAN'T STOP THINKING THAT SOME TIME TODAY A CLUE WAS STARING ME RIGHT IN THE FACE...


SUDDENLY—
HEY!
RESTAURANT


THE NOOSE KEEPS TIGHTENING REMORSELESSY AROUND FURY'S NECK! TIGHTER... TIGHTER... TIGHTER...


BUT THEN-!
GOT A GRIP ON THAT LEDGE JUST IN TIME!


HE'S GETTING AWAY! I'M TOO WEAK TO GIVE CHASE NOW- BUT I'M PRETTY SURE I KNOW WHO HE IS! AND, AS THE GHOST RIDER, I'LL BE COMING FOR HIM... AFTER MIDNIGHT!


AFTER MIDNIGHT—
IF MY SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, THE SCOURGE OF TERROR WILL BE ENDED WITHIN AN HOUR! BUT BEFORE ENTERING THE CULPRIT'S HOUSE, I MUST PREPARE SOME SPECTRAL EFFECTS...


LATER—
MY GRAVE YAWNS, BLACK AND EMPTY, IN THE MOONLIGHT... AND ONLY AFTER I HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO JUSTICE, SHALL I REST THERE IN PEACE AGAIN! CONFESS, FIEND, THE WHY OF YOUR FOUL MURDERS!
AIEEE!


TH-THERE'S NOTHING TO CONFESS! YOU HAVE THE WRONG MAN!
YOU LIE! THE VERY EARTH KNOWS THAT YOU LIE! HEAR ITS ANGRY RUMBLES AS IT PRONOUNCES YOUR GUILT!

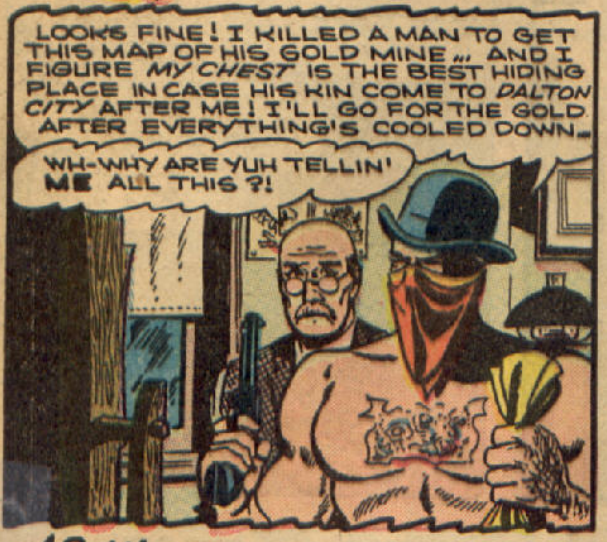

TH-THE HOUSE IS SHAKING! AND ALL TH-THAT SMOKE! WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?!
RUMBLE!
BAROOM!


I PLANTED A SMALL DYNAMITE CHARGE AND SOME SMOKE BOMBS UNDER THE HOUSE BEFORE ENTERING...
WILL YOU SPEAK NOW? WILL YOU TELL WHY YOU KILLED MAN AFTER MAN... AND BARED EACH VICTIM'S CHEST?!

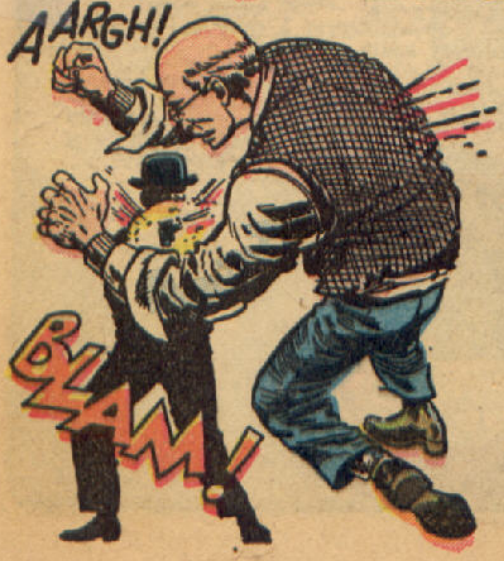

I-I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING! JUST STAND BACK! D-DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! IT ALL STARTED THREE MONTHS AGO...


"OLD SAM EVART WAS A TATTOO ARTIST IN THE TOWN WHERE I HAD MY LAST OFFICE. ONE NIGHT..."
WH-WHUT DO YUH WANT?
GET YOUR TOOLS READY, OLD MAN! I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU TO DO!
TATTOO
-WHILE U WAIT-

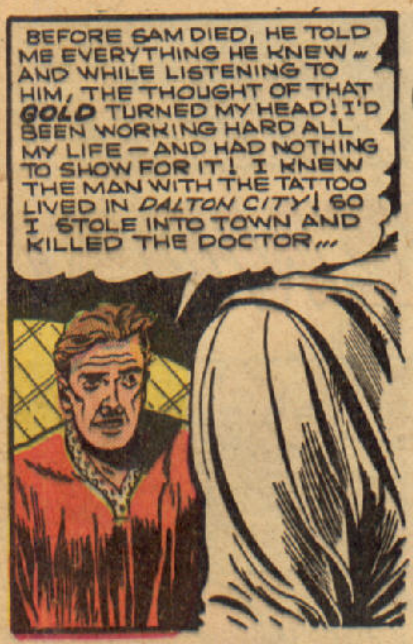

COPY THIS MAP WITH RED INK ONTO MY CHEST! THEN CAMOUFLAGE THE TATTOO WITH BLUE INK! AND DON'T FORGET WHILE YOU'RE WORKING— I'LL SHOOT TO KILL AT THE FIRST FALSE MOVE!
TATTOO


LOOKS FINE! I KILLED A MAN TO GET THIS MAP OF HIS GOLD MINE... AND I FIGURE MY CHEST IS THE BEST HIDING PLACE IN CASE HIS KIN COME TO DALTON CITY AFTER ME! I'LL GO FOR THE GOLD AFTER EVERYTHING'S COOLED DOWN...
WH-WHY ARE YUH TELLIN' ME ALL THIS?!


BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIVE TO TELL ANYBODY ELSE!
N-NO! NO! DON'T SHOOT!


AARGH!
BLAM!

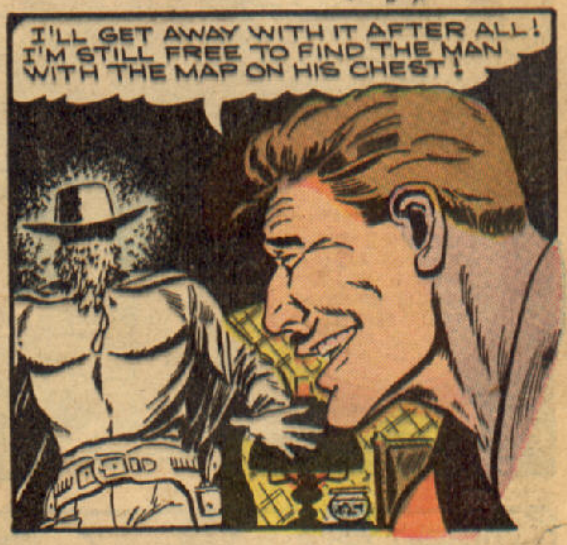

"THE KILLER GOT AWAY. BUT I'D BEEN RIDING BY ON A NIGHT CALL. I HEARD THE SHOT, AND RUSHED IN TO FIND OLD SAM DYING..."
SAM— WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!
M-MASKED MAN...} GASP! FROM DALTON CITY...

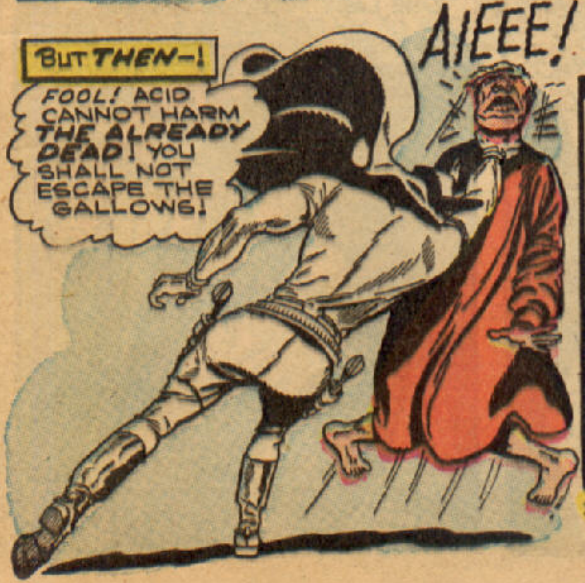

BEFORE SAM DIED, HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING HE KNEW — AND WHILE LISTENING TO HIM, THE THOUGHT OF THAT GOLD TURNED MY HEAD! I'D BEEN WORKING HARD ALL MY LIFE — AND HAD NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT! I KNEW THE MAN WITH THE TATTOO LIVED IN DALTON CITY! SO I STOLE INTO TOWN AND KILLED THE DOCTOR...


...THEN I CAME AGAIN BY STAGE, KNOWING THE TERRITORY WOULD NEED A NEW DOCTOR. I GAVE FREE EXAMINATIONS, HOPING I'D FIND THE TATTOO THAT. WHEN THAT DIDN'T WORK, I BEGAN TO KILL, ALWAYS IN SEARCH OF THE CHEST THAT HAD THE TREASURE MAP ON IT!
THE CLUE THAT LED ME HERE WAS HIS MAKING THE SHERIFF STRIP TO THE WAIST WHEN IT WAS HIS FOOT NEEDED EXAMINING! BUT ONLY WHEN I WAS ATTACKED LATER, DID IT BECOME CLEAR TO ME!


AS THE CONFESSION HAS BEEN POURING THROUGH HIS LIPS, THE TREACHEROUS DOCTOR HAS BEEN REACHING BACK INTO THE SHADOWS FOR A BOTTLE OF ACID! AND NOW!


AS THE GHOST RIDER STANDS THERE, THE SEARING ACID DOES ITS HORRIBLE WORK!

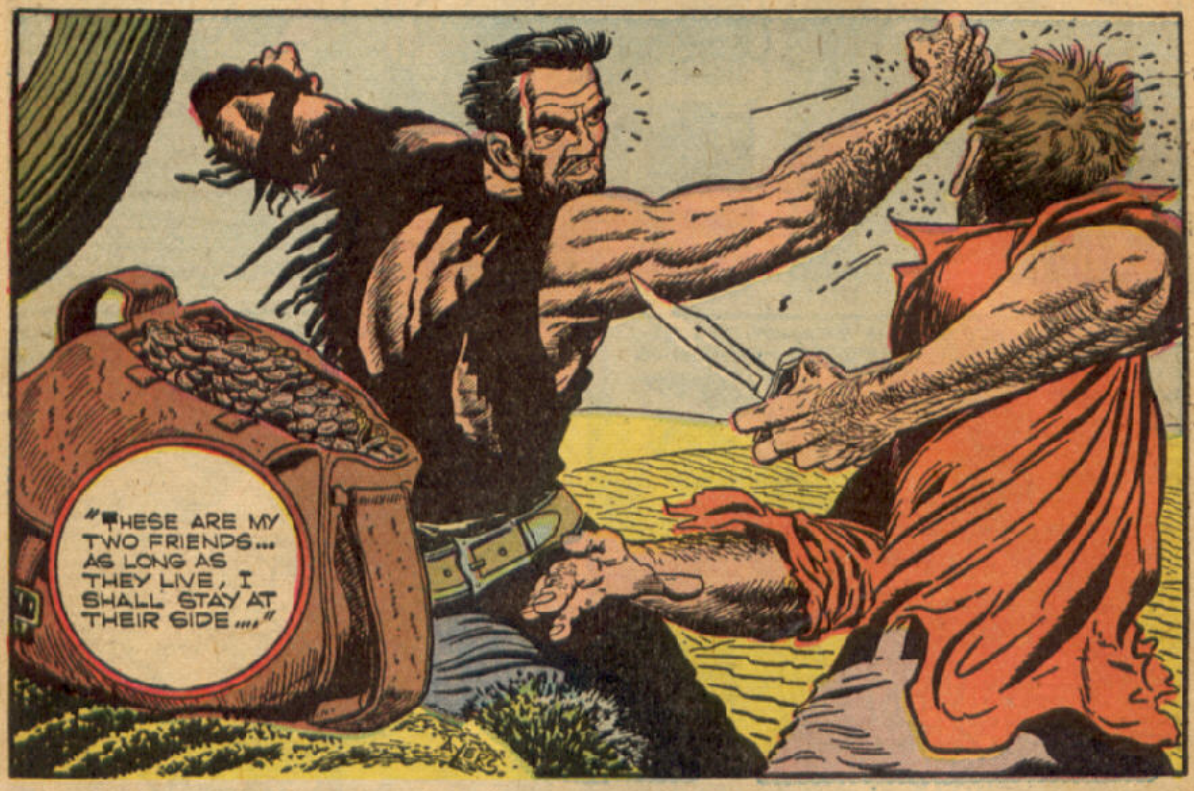

I'LL GET AWAY WITH IT AFTER ALL! I'M STILL FREE TO FIND THE MAN WITH THE MAP ON HIS CHEST!

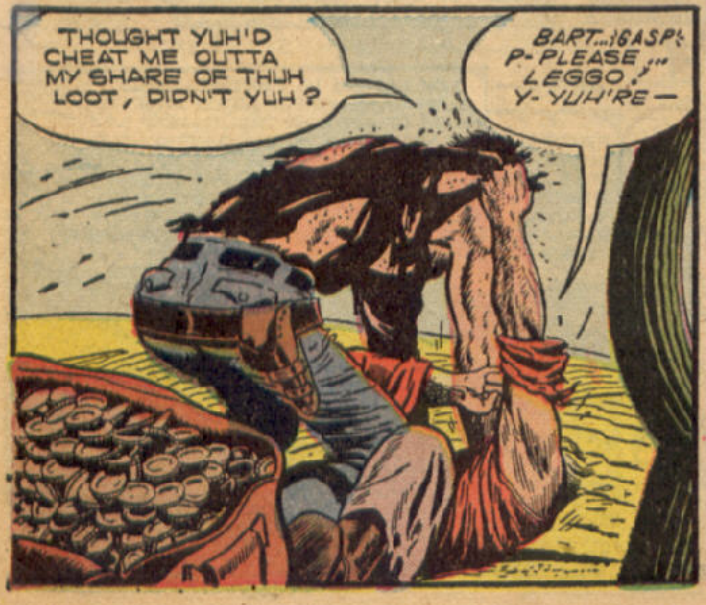

BUT THEN—!
AIEEE!
FOOL! ACID CANNOT HARM THE ALREADY DEAD! YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE THE GALLOWS!


LATER—
MY MASK IS THICK... AND ALTHOUGH THE ACID ATE IT AWAY, IT NEVER TOUCHED MY FACE! THE VILLAIN IS AWAITING TRIAL NOW, AND HE WILL NEVER KNOW THAT THE MAN WITH THE TATTOO WAS HIS VERY FIRST VICTIM, THE OTHER DOCTOR, WHOSE CHEST HE DID NOT HAVE TIME TO EXAMINE BECAUSE THE GHOST RIDER HAD INTERVENED!
THE END

TALES of the GHOST RIDER

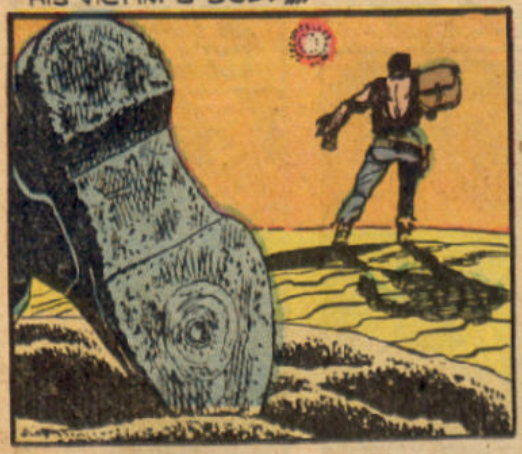
MY TWO FRIENDS!



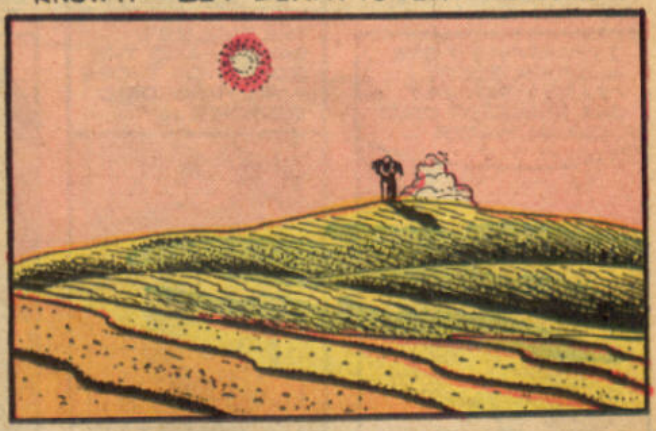


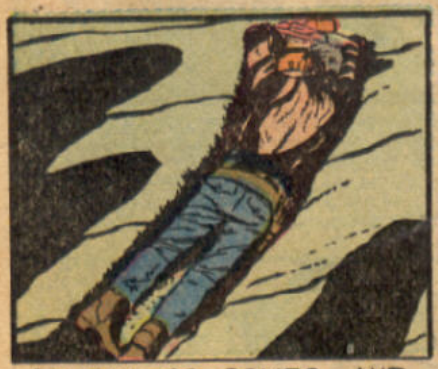


"THE FRIEND WHO IS STILL ALIVE HAS FLED NOW INTO THE DESERT... BUT I REMAIN BEHIND... TO TEND TO HIS VICTIM'S BODY..."



"HOURS LATER... AND I HAVE REJOINED MY LIVING FRIEND! THE DESERT STRETCHES ENDLESSLY BEFORE HIM... BUT HE DOES NOT HAVE FAR TO GO... MY FRIEND MAY NOT KNOW IT— *BUT DEATH IS VERY NEAR...!*"



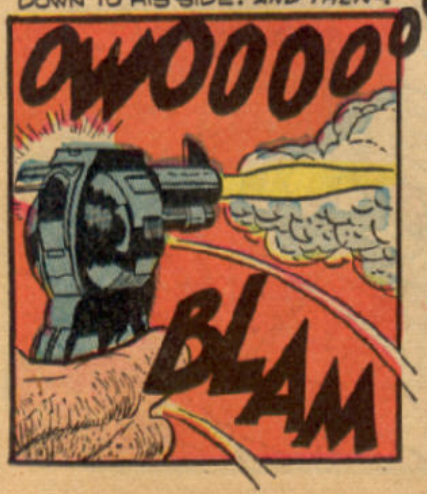


"DARKNESS COMES... AND MY FRIEND BURROWS INTO THE SAND AND FALLS ASLEEP... BUT THE DESERT NEVER SLEEPS— AND NOW... CREEPING STEALTHILY FORWARD IN THE DARK, COME SILENT QUICK-FOOTED SHADOWS..."

"*JACKALS!* SNIFFING, SLAVERING JACKALS WITH THEIR FANGS BARED TO SHRED MY FRIEND'S FLESH TO STRIPS! WILL HE GET UP IN TIME? *WILL HE...?*"



"BUT BEFORE THE PACK LEAPS, ONE OF THEM PAUSES TO HOWL AT THE MOON... AND AT THAT MOMENT, MY FRIEND'S EYES BLINK OPEN! WITH THE SPEED OF A SNAKE, HIS HAND FLASHES DOWN TO HIS SIDE! *AND THEN—!*"





"IT IS MORNING NOW... I AM WITH MY FRIEND AGAIN... AS HE MOVES PAINFULLY FORWARD... DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE BLAZING SUN..."



"MY FRIEND HAS A GREAT THIRST. HE MAKES A STRANGE CHOKING SOUND AS HE WALKS ..."

I...! GASP! I'D GIVE ALL THIS GOLD... GASP! FER JIST ONE GLASS OF COLD CLEAR WATER ...

"BUT THE DESERT DOES NOT ANSWER. IN THE DESERT, THERE ARE ONLY MY FRIEND, MYSELF, THE ENDLESS SANDS, AND THE BONES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED BEFORE ..."

"MY FRIEND'S TONGUE IS SWOLLEN. HIS MOUTH IS HOT AND DRY INSIDE, LIKE A BLAZING FURNACE ..."

"HIS EYES ARE STREAKED WITH BLOOD. BUT HE KEEPS STAGGERING FORWARD, UNTIL SUDDENLY—!"

WATER! THET'S WATER AHAID! AN' A SHADY TREE TO LAY DOWN UNDER...!

"I CANNOT UNDERSTAND MY FRIEND...." ONE MOMENT, HE CRIES ALOUD GLEEFULLY AND SPENDS HIS LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH IN A SENSELESS DASH FORWARD — AND THE NEXT MOMENT, HE LIES ON THE GROUND, GROANING WITH ANGUISH ..."

NO... NO! IT CAIN'T BE ...

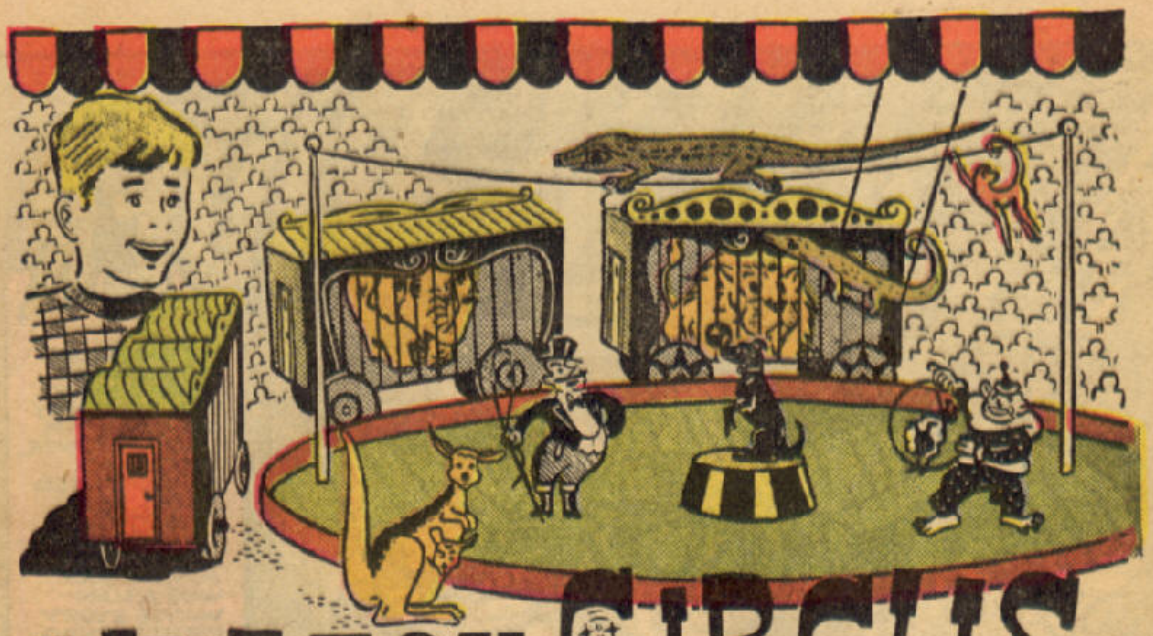
BUT IT IS!

I WAS FOOLED BY A MIRAGE!

"AND NOW ONE MORE RASPING DEATH, AND THEN MY FRIEND DIES! AS LONG AS HE LIVED, I STAYED BY HIS SIDE.... AND I SHALL NOT LEAVE YET...."

I STILL HAVE TO TEND TO HIS BODY!

THE END



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only $1.00

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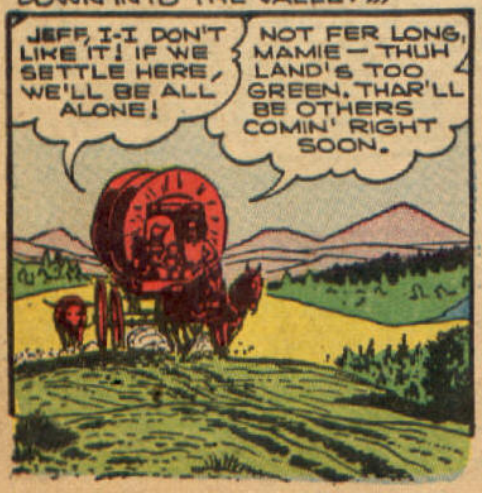
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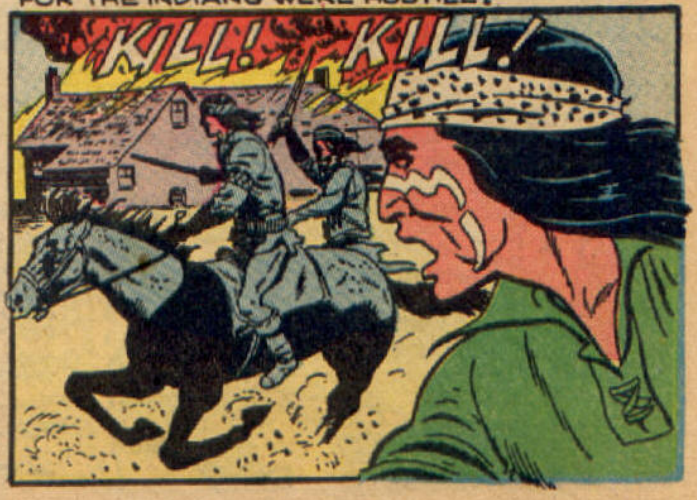
THE GHOST RIDER



THERE WAS A VALLEY— GREEN, FERTILE, AND SPARSELY SETTLED BY INDIANS. BUT ONE DAY, A COVERED WAGON TRUNDLED DOWN INTO THE VALLEY...



JEFF ROBERTS WAS RIGHT. THE GREEN VALLEY BECKONED... AND MORE SETTLERS CAME. THEY BUILT THEIR HOUSES AND FENCED OFF THEIR GRAZING LAND. BUT THERE WAS NO PEACE... FOR THE INDIANS WERE HOSTILE!



US VALLEY FOLK HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER! IF WE TRY FIGHTIN' OFF THUH INJUNS SINGLE HANDED, WE'LL BE WIPED OUT, ONE BY ONE! NOW, HERE'S MY PLAN... THUH NEXT TIME ONE OF US IS ATTACKED, LET HIM FIRE HIS GUN *THREE TIMES* REAL FAST! THAT'LL BE A SIGNAL FER EVERYBODY ELSE TO GANG-UP AN' COME RIDIN'!

SOUNDS SENSIBLE TO ME, JEFF!

I'M WITH YUH!

SO FOR A TIME, THE VALLEY FOLK HELD OFF THE INDIANS, BUT ONE NIGHT, OUTSIDE JEFF ROBERTS' RANCH...

AS THE FIRST FLAMING ARROW THWACKED INTO THE LINTEL, JEFF GAVE THE SIGNAL!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

AND THE OTHER VALLEY FOLK GATHERED GRIMLY TOGETHER AND RODE HARD TO THE RESCUE!

BUT THE INDIANS HAD PLAYED IT SMART THIS TIME! THEY HAD STATIONED AN AMBUSHING PARTY TO WAYLAY THE RESCUERS!

FORM A CIRCLE BEHIND YORE HORSES, MEN — OR THEY'LL GIT EVERY ONE OF US!

PORE JEFF — WE'LL NEVER GIT THROUGH TO HIM NOW!

KILL!

BLAM

BY THE TIME MORNING CAME, JEFF ROBERTS' RANCH WAS A SMOULDERING RUIN — AND OF THE WHOLE FAMILY, ONLY YOUNG CLEM WAS STILL ALIVE!

PAW GAVE THUH SIGNAL — BUT *THEY DIDN'T COME!* THEY STAYED AWAY ON PURPOSE SO WE'D ALL GIT KILLED... AN' *THEY* COULD PARCEL-UP OUR RANCH!

AND SO YOUNG CLEM LEFT THE VALLEY WITH HATRED TWISTING HIS HEART! AND AS THE YEARS PASSED, THAT SAME HATRED KEPT SOURING HIM AND TURNING HIM AGAINST THE LAW... TILL AT LAST HE BECAME A NOTORIOUS GANG LEADER!

WANTED

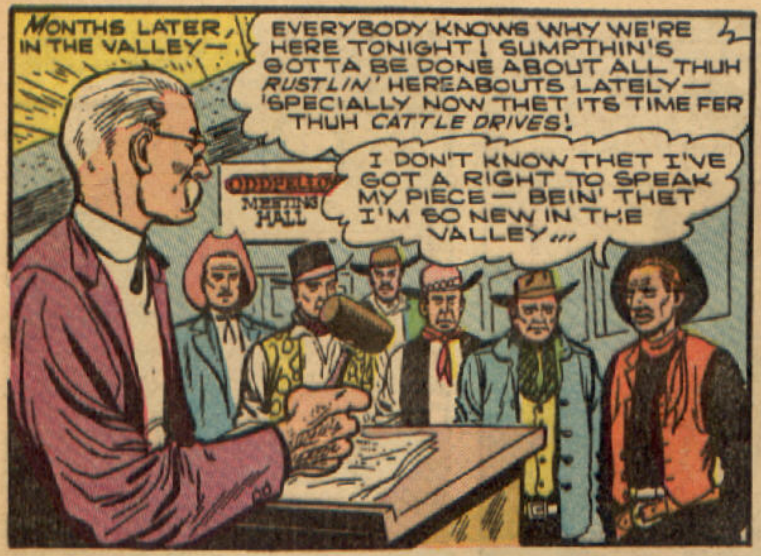
REWARD

DEAD OR ALIVE

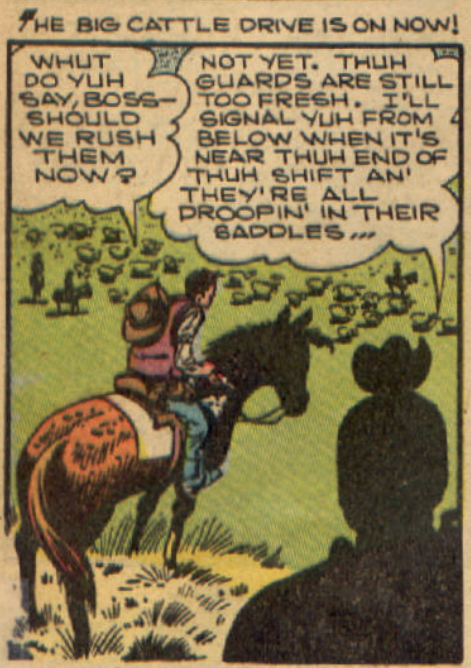
THEN ONE NIGHT...

WHAR WE HEADIN' FER, BOSS?

FER THET *GREEN VALLEY* YUH'VE ALWAYS HEARD ME TALK ABOUT! AN' WE'RE GOIN' TO WORK REAL SLOW AN' SMART THERE! BECAUSE I WANT THOSE *VALLEY FOLK* TO SUFFER HARD BEFORE *WE* WIPE *THEM* ALL OUT!

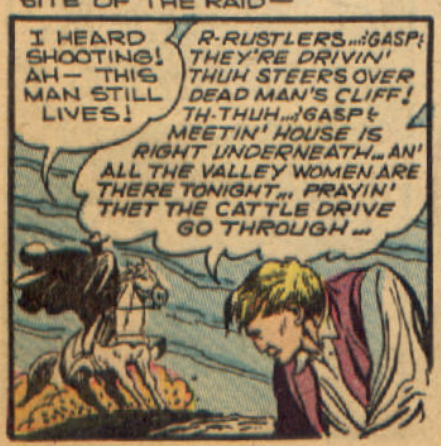

MONTHS LATER, IN THE VALLEY—
EVERYBODY KNOWS WHY WE'RE HERE TONIGHT! SUMPTHIN'S GOTTA BE DONE ABOUT ALL THUH RUSTLIN' HEREABOUTS LATELY—'SPECIALLY NOW THET IT'S TIME FER THUH CATTLE DRIVES!
ODDFELLOWS MEETING HALL
I DON'T KNOW THET I'VE GOT A RIGHT TO SPEAK MY PIECE — BEIN' THET I'M SO NEW IN THE VALLEY...

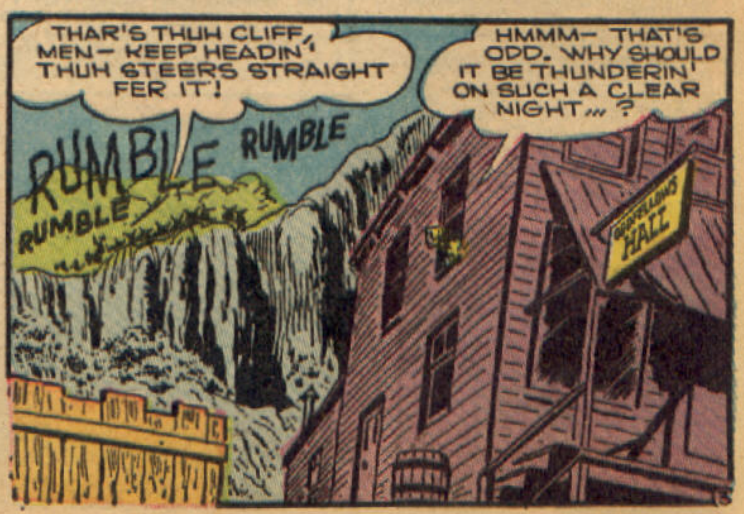

...BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THET IF WE ALL GOT TOGETHER AN' DROVE OUR HERDS IN ONE BUNCH, WE'D BE ABLE TO POST ENOUGH GUARDS TO HANDLE THOSE DRATTED RUSTLERS!
JOE RAWLINGS IS RIGHT! THAT'S THUH ONLY WAY!
YUH GOT MY VOTE, JOE!


THE BIG CATTLE DRIVE IS ON NOW!
WHUT DO YUH SAY, BOSS—SHOULD WE RUSH THEM NOW?
NOT YET. THUH GUARDS ARE STILL TOO FRESH. I'LL SIGNAL YUH FROM BELOW WHEN IT'S NEAR THUH END OF THUH SHIFT AN' THEY'RE ALL DROOPIN' IN THEIR SADDLES...


THE SIGNAL HAS BEEN GIVEN!
BLAM!
HEY-!


UP THUH MOUNTAIN PASS WITH THUH HERD! THEN THUH BOSS WANTS US TO BACK-TRAIL THEM AN' DRIVE EVERY LAST STEER OVER DEAD MAN'S CLIFF!


PRODDED BY THE RUSTLERS, THE BAWLING STEERS THUNDER UP THE PASS! BUT BACK AT THE SITE OF THE RAID—
I HEARD SHOOTING! AH— THIS MAN STILL LIVES!
R-RUSTLERS...! GASP! THEY'RE DRIVIN' THUH STEERS OVER DEAD MAN'S CLIFF! TH-THUH...! GASP! MEETIN' HOUSE IS RIGHT UNDERNEATH... AN' ALL THE VALLEY WOMEN ARE THERE TONIGHT... PRAYIN' THET THE CATTLE DRIVE GO THROUGH...

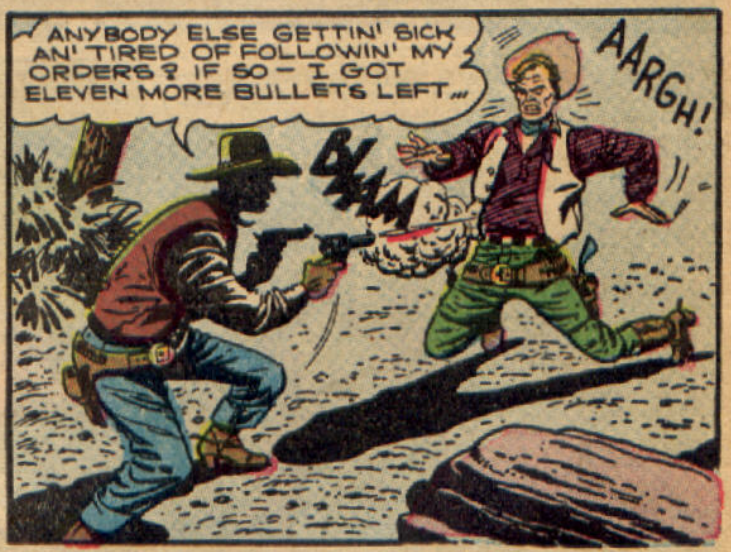

THAR'S THUH CLIFF, MEN— KEEP HEADIN' THUH STEERS STRAIGHT FER IT!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
HMMM— THAT'S ODD. WHY SHOULD IT BE THUNDERIN' ON SUCH A CLEAR NIGHT...?
ODDFELLOWS HALL


RUMBLE RUMBLE
BUT THEN—
IT'S A WALL OF FLAME! AN' THUH HERD'S VEERIN' TO THUH SIDE!
WHOOSH!
THE DRUMMING HOOFS OF MY SPECTRE BROUGHT ME HERE BEFORE THE HERD—AND I HAD TIME TO LAY THE TRAIL OF GUNPOWDER!
THAR'S THUH VARMINT THET SKEERED THUH HERD AWAY FROM THUH CLIFF. EVERYBODY TOGETHER—SHOOT TO KILL!
BLAM!
NO SIGN OF HIM—HE MUST'VE FALLEN OVER THUH CLIFF!
THEN THUH NIGHT'S WORK WASN'T WASTED! THET WAS THUH GHOST RIDER! WITH HIM OUT OF THUH WAY, NUTHIN'S GONNA STOP THUH BOSS FROM CARRYIN' OUT HIS PLAN TO WIPE OUT ALL THUH VALLEY FOLK!
AT THAT MOMENT—
THAT WAS CLOSE! IF NOT FOR THE SWIRLING GUNPOWDER SMOKE, THE FOUL VILLAINS WOULD HAVE SEEN ME DIVING FOR THE UNDERBELLY OF THIS STEER!
LATER—
WHUT DO WE DO NEXT, BOSS?
LET THUH VALLEY FOLK WORK ON ROUNDIN' UP THEIR STEERS! WHILE THEY'RE BUSY DOIN' THAT, THERE'LL BE NOBODY TO STOP US FROM FIRIN' THEIR RANCHES—ONE AFTER THUH OTHER!
THE NEXT NIGHT—
NOT TOO MUCH NOISE NOW! THUH BOSS WANTS EVERYBODY INSIDE TO BE TRAPPED BY THE FLAMES!

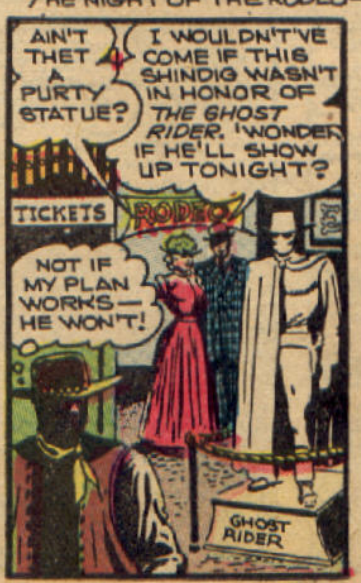

THEN—
AIEEEE! IT'S THUH GHOST RIDER... COME FROM THUH GRAVE ... AN' HE'S FLYIN'!
STAND YORE GROUND, MEN! HE CAN'T— OWWW!
BLAM


I HAVE VOWED TO PATROL THE VALLEY TILL I LEARN THE WHY OF THE DASTARDLY ATTACK ON THE HERD-GUARDS! I SAW THE VILLAINS' FRESH TRACKS LEADING HERE TONIGHT... AND SPECTRE BROUGHT ME TO THE RANCH HOUSE IN TIME TO SET UP THIS "FLYING APPARATUS. BUT I CANNOT GIVE CHASE — FOR NOW I SEE THAT A GOPHER HOLE HAS LAMED MY GALLANT STEED.

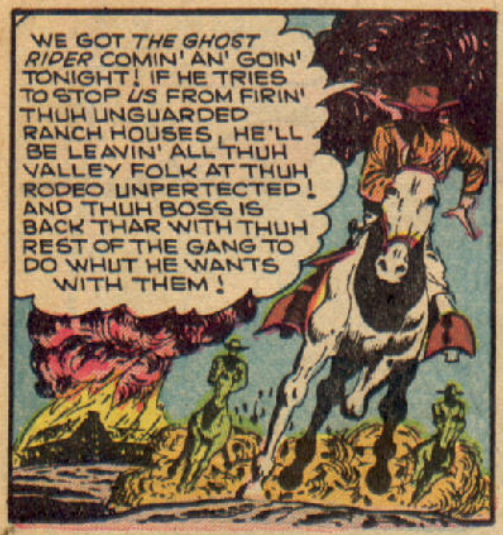

BOSS, THUH GHOST RIDER'S STILL OPERATIN'! WE BETTER PULL OUT BEFORE HE TRACKS US ALL DOWN!
I'M GETTIN' SICK AN' TIRED ANYWAY OF WORKIN' FER PEANUTS JIST SO YOU KIN GIT BACK AT ALL THOSE VALLEY FOLK FER WHUT THEY DONE TO YORE MAW AN' PAW!


ANYBODY ELSE GETTIN' SICK AN' TIRED OF FOLLOWIN' MY ORDERS? IF SO — I GOT ELEVEN MORE BULLETS LEFT...
AARGH!
BLAM


N-NO, BOSS! WE'RE STICKIN' BY YUH! JIST TELL US WHUT THE NEXT MOVE'LL BE!
I'LL SPREAD WORD ABOUT WHUT'S HAPPENED — AN' THET'LL MAKE THE GHOST RIDER THE BIGGEST HERO THE VALLEY'S EVER HAD! THEN I'LL SEE TO IT THET A BIG FREE RODEO IS RUN OFF IN HIS HONOR. AN' WHEN EVERY MAN, WOMAN AN' CHILD IN THUH VALLEY IS SITTIN' IN THUH BIG RODEO TENT...


THE NIGHT OF THE RODEO—
AIN'T THET A PURTY STATUE?
I WOULDN'T'VE COME IF THIS SHINDIG WASN'T IN HONOR OF THE GHOST RIDER. I WONDER IF HE'LL SHOW UP TONIGHT?
TICKETS
RODEO
NOT IF MY PLAN WORKS — HE WON'T!
GHOST RIDER


THE RODEO STARTS WITH THE VALLEY FOLK CHEERING THE CLOWNS AND THE BRONCO-BUSTERS...
...WHILE OUT IN THE VALLEY, A RANCH HOUSE GOES UP IN FLAMES!

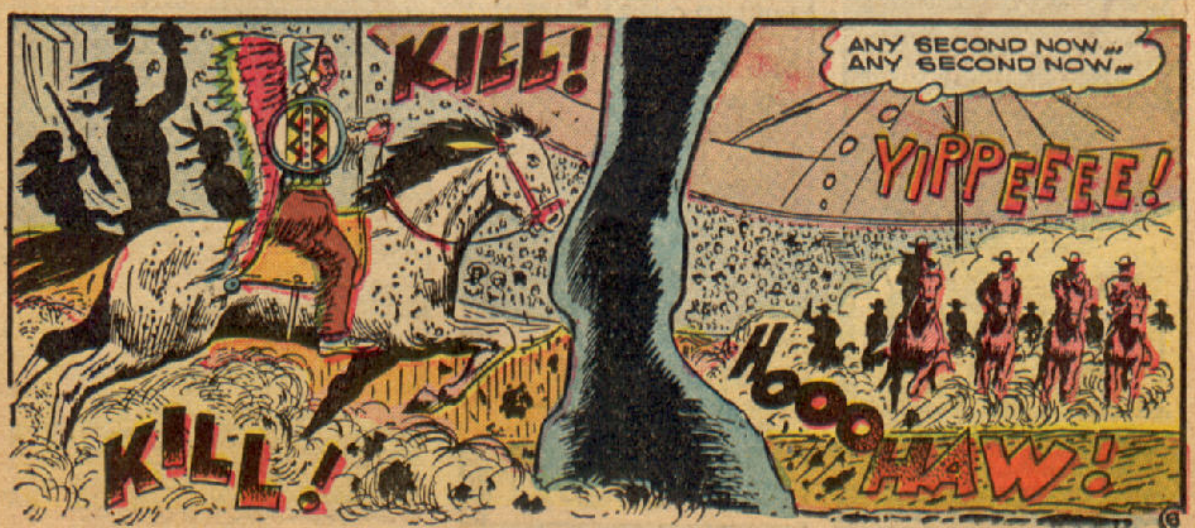

WE GOT *THE GHOST RIDER* COMIN' AN' GOIN' TONIGHT! IF HE TRIES TO STOP *US* FROM FIRIN' THUH UNGUARDED RANCH HOUSES, HE'LL BE LEAVIN' ALL THUH VALLEY FOLK AT THUH RODEO UNPERTECTED! AND THUH BOSS IS BACK THAR WITH THUH REST OF THE GANG TO DO WHUT HE WANTS WITH THEM!

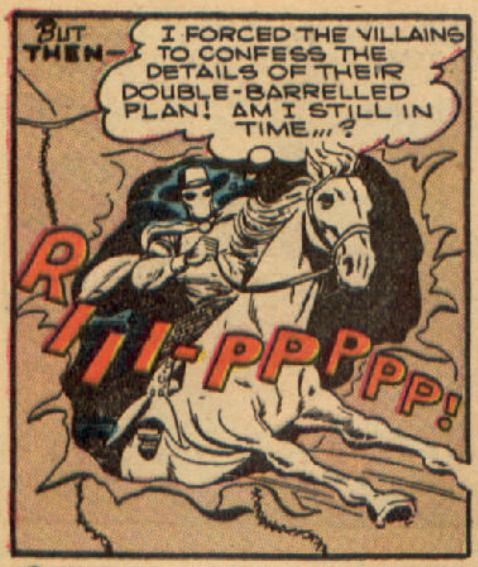

AS THE VILLAINS SET FIRE TO THE SECOND RANCH—
LOOK! THAR HE COMES NOW!
I SUSPECTED TONIGHT'S RODEO WAS A *DECOY*! AND SINCE THE VILLAINS....
AIEEEEE!

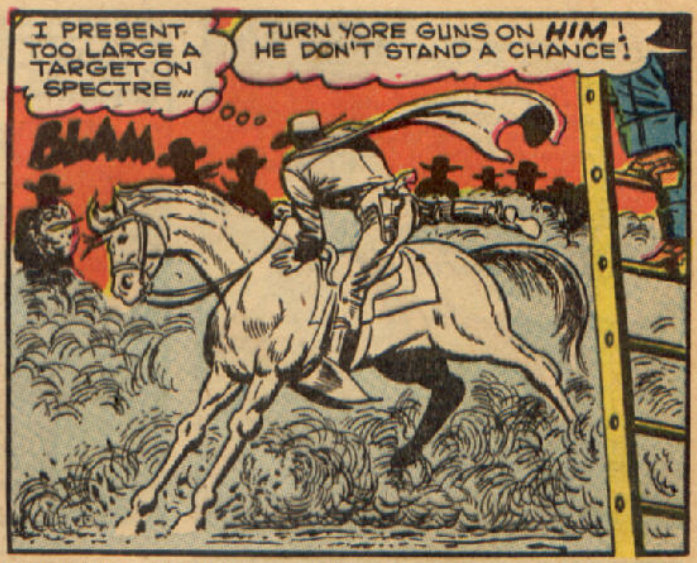

...COULD NOT SEE THIS BLACK BUCKBOARD IN THE DARK, I HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH THEM AT LAST!
OW!
AIEE!
KURRASSH!


MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RODEO...
THUH *MOCK INDIAN FIGHT*'S COMIN' UP NEXT! ONLY INSTEAD OF REGULAR RODEO PERFORMERS, THEY'LL BE *MY* MEN RIDIN' INTO THUH RING WITH REAL LEAD IN THEIR GUNS INSTEAD OF BLANKS! AN' THEIR ORDERS ARE TO TURN THOSE GUNS ON ALL THUH VALLEY FOLK SITTIN' IN THUH STANDS!

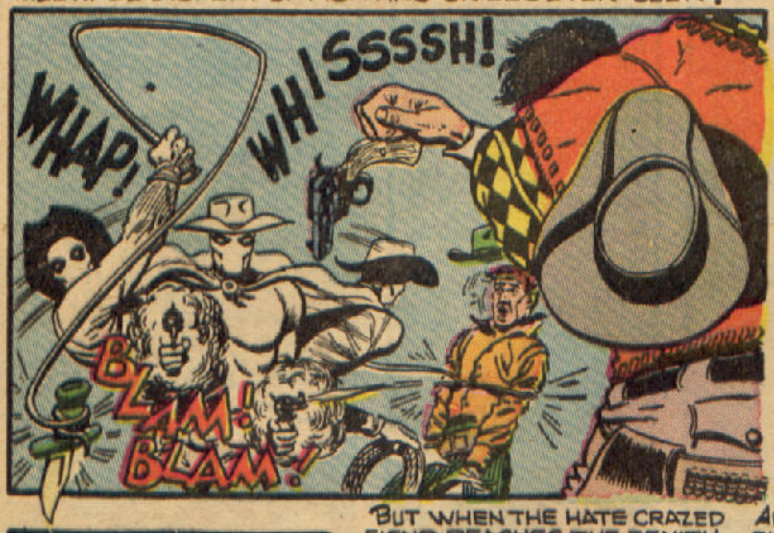

LADEES AND GENTLEMEN, FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT AND EDIFICATION... NEXT ON THE PROGRAM... THE SPECTACLE THAT YOU SHALL NEVER FORGET... *THE MOCK INDIAN FIGHT*!
JUDGES STAND


KILL!
KILL!
ANY SECOND NOW... ANY SECOND NOW...
YIPPEEEE!
HOOOHAW!



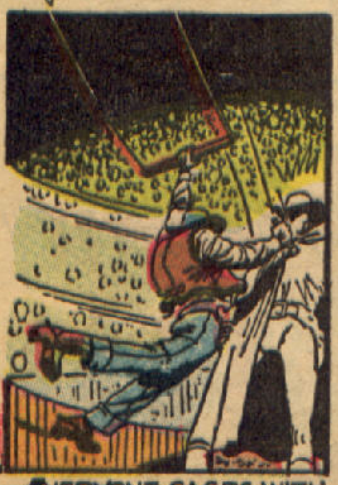


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WHEN IT ENDS, THE VALLEY FOLK, THINKING IT PART OF THE SHOW, RISE TO THEIR FEET TO CHEER WILDLY!

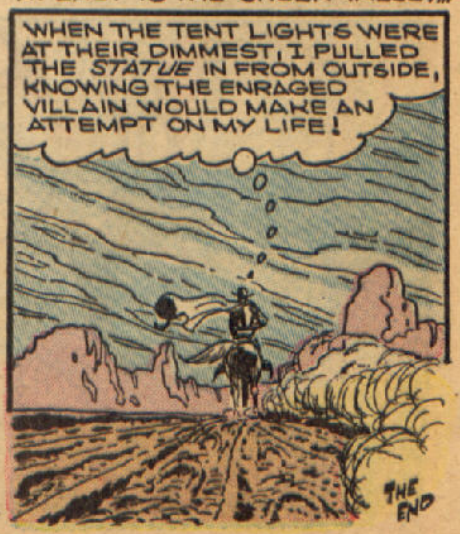




BUT WHEN THE HATE CRAZED FIEND REACHES THE ZENITH OF HIS FATAL ARC—



AND SO WHEN *THE GHOST RIDER* FINALLY GALLOPS OFF INTO THE NIGHT AGAIN, PEACE HAS COME AT LAST TO THE GREEN VALLEY...



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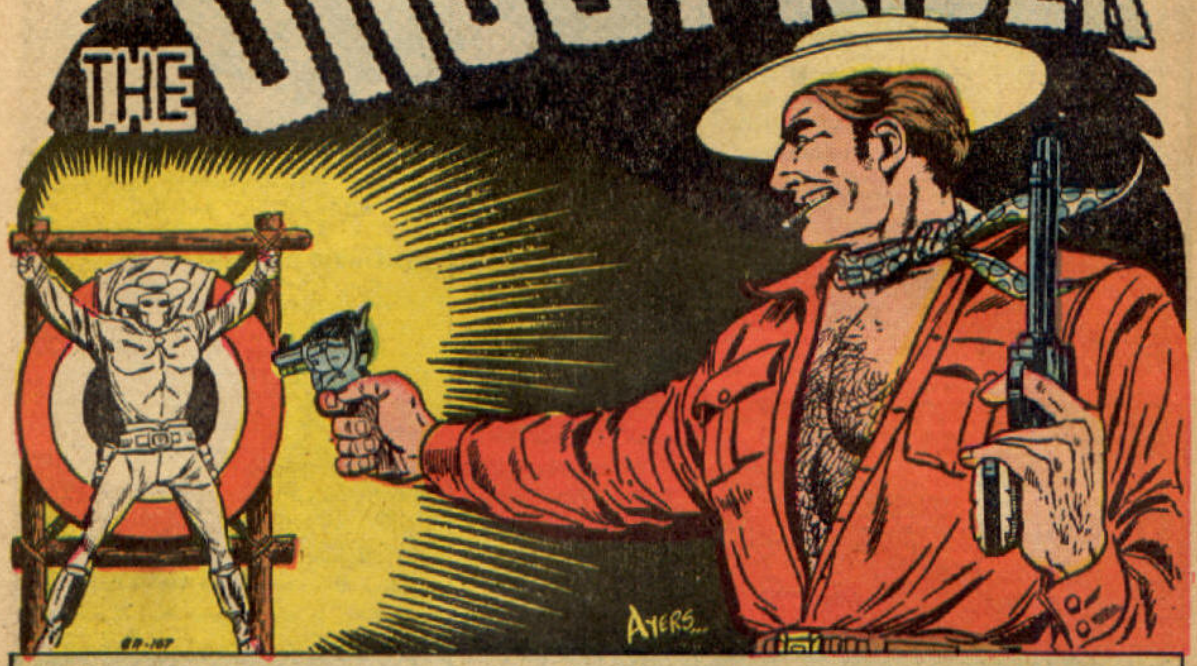
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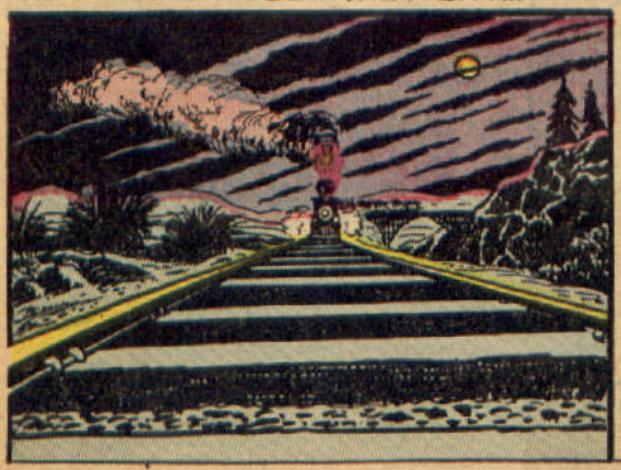
THE GHOST RIDER



THE STRANGER CAME FROM NOWHERE WITH CRASHING FISTS AND SMOKING SIX-SHOOTERS THAT STRUCK **FEAR** INTO THE HEARTS OF ALL LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE! BUT THE OWLHOOTS OF THE TERRITORY SMILED AT HIS COMING — BECAUSE AT LAST THEY HAD FOUND A MAN WHO COULD STAND UP AGAINST ***THEIR WORST ENEMY***... A MAN WHO COULD SHOOT TO KILL HIS...

Target: Ghost Rider!

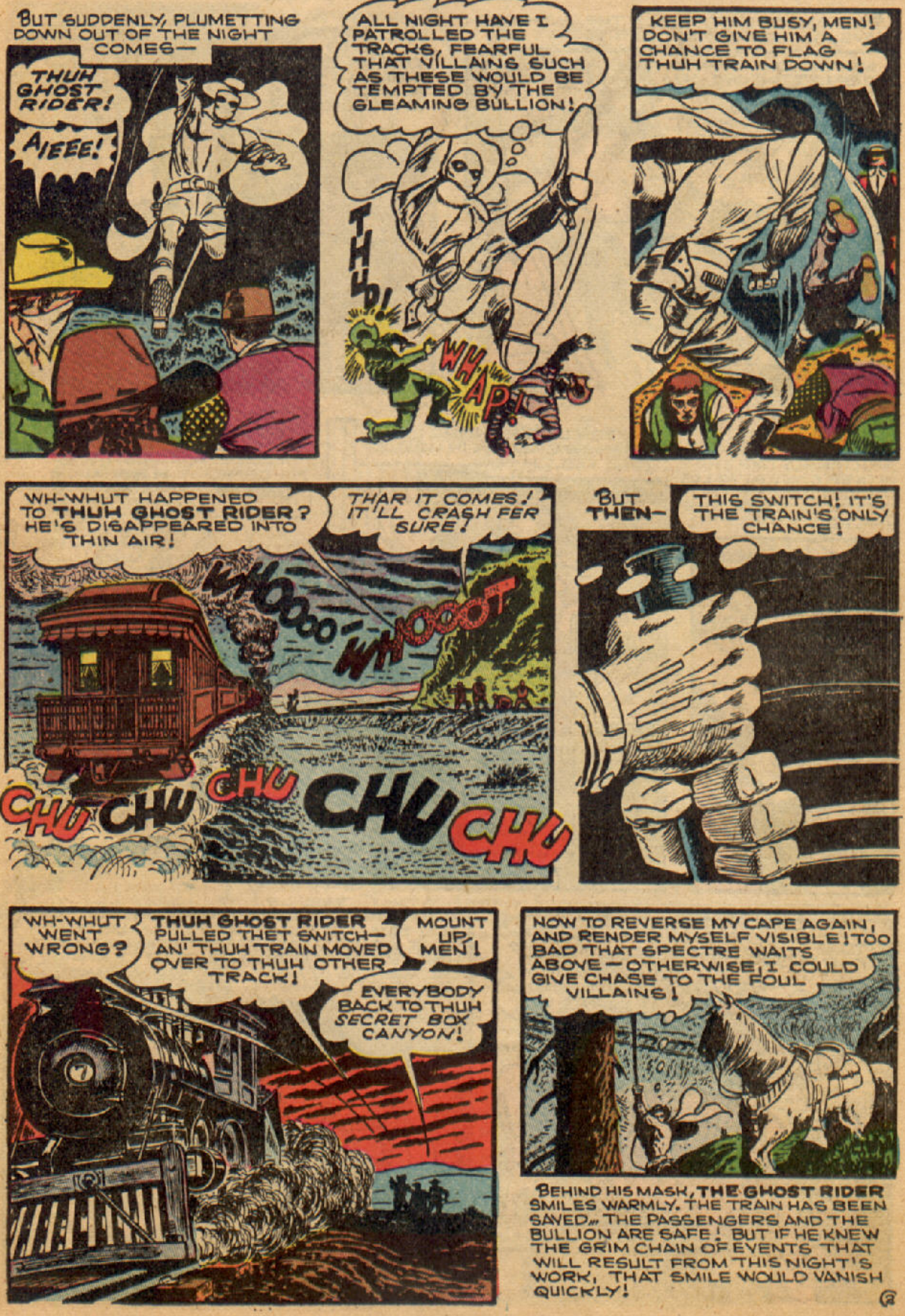
WITH A BIG LOAD OF GOLD BULLION IN THE BAGGAGE-CAR, THE LINCOLN LIMITED HURTLES THROUGH THE NIGHT...



THUH TRAIN'LL CRASH AS SOON AS IT HITS THUH RIPPED-UP RAILS! AN' EVEN BEFORE THUH DUST SETTLES, I WANT EVERY LAST ONE OF YUH HEADED FER THUH BAGGAGE-CAR WHAR THET ***GOLD*** IS!



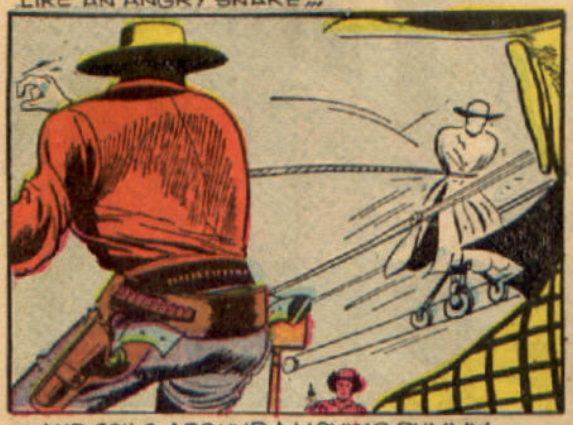
...CHUGGING AND PUFFING TOWARDS DESTRUCTION!


BUT SUDDENLY, PLUMETTING DOWN OUT OF THE NIGHT COMES—
THUH GHOST RIDER!
AIEEE!
ALL NIGHT HAVE I PATROLLED THE TRACKS, FEARFUL THAT VILLAINS SUCH AS THESE WOULD BE TEMPTED BY THE GLEAMING BULLION!
THUD!
WHAP!
KEEP HIM BUSY, MEN! DON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO FLAG THUH TRAIN DOWN!
WH-WHUT HAPPENED TO THUH GHOST RIDER? HE'S DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!
THAR 'IT COMES! IT'LL CRASH FER SURE!
WHOOOO-
WHOOOT
CHU CHU CHU CHU CHU
BUT THEN—
THIS SWITCH! IT'S THE TRAIN'S ONLY CHANCE!
WH-WHUT WENT WRONG?
THUH GHOST RIDER PULLED THET SWITCH— AN' THUH TRAIN MOVED OVER TO THUH OTHER TRACK!
MOUNT UP, MEN!
EVERYBODY BACK TO THUH SECRET BOX CANYON!
NOW TO REVERSE MY CAPE AGAIN, AND RENDER MYSELF VISIBLE! TOO BAD THAT SPECTRE WAITS ABOVE—OTHERWISE, I COULD GIVE CHASE TO THE FOUL VILLAINS!
BEHIND HIS MASK, THE GHOST RIDER SMILES WARMLY. THE TRAIN HAS BEEN SAVED... THE PASSENGERS AND THE BULLION ARE SAFE! BUT IF HE KNEW THE GRIM CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WILL RESULT FROM THIS NIGHT'S WORK, THAT SMILE WOULD VANISH QUICKLY!


THAT SAME NIGHT, AFTER THE OWLHOOTS HAVE PULLED REIN IN THEIR SECRET BOX CANYON—
ARE WE GONNA KEEP LETTIN' ONE MAN HOG-TIE US? EVERY-TIME WE TRY TO PULL A JOB, THUH GHOST RIDER BUSTS IT UP! I'M TELLIN' YUH... THET SPOOK HAS TA BE GUNNED DOWN!
YUH GOT THUH RIGHT IDEER, BOSS— BUT WHO ARE YUH GONNA GIT TO CLEAR LEATHER AGAINST THUH GHOST RIDER?
WHO...? WHO...? THE QUESTION ECHOES MOCKINGLY OFF THE STEEP CANYON WALLS AS ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLUTCH AT THE OWLHOOTS' HEARTS!
A WEEK LATER, IN THE LAST CHANCE SALOON IN NEARBY RED GULCH—
OW!
WHUT'S THUH IDEER OF— GNNNG!
THUH IDEER'S PLAIN AN' SIMPLE— WHEN JEB HAWKINS WALKS INTO A JOINT, HE DON'T STOP TO LOOK WHO'S COMIN' THUH OTHER WAY!
YUH HAD NO CALL TO HIT HIM, STRANGER!
DON'T CROWD ME! IF YUH TAKE ANOTHER STEP, SOMEBODY'S GONNA GIT HURT... AN' IT WON'T BE ME!
YOU SEE WHAT I SEE, HANK? THET HOMBRE'S TOUGH!
SUMPTHIN' TELLS ME WE'RE LOOKIN' AT THUH MAN WHO'S GONNA CLEAR LEATHER AGAINST THUH GHOST RIDER!
BLAM! BLAM!

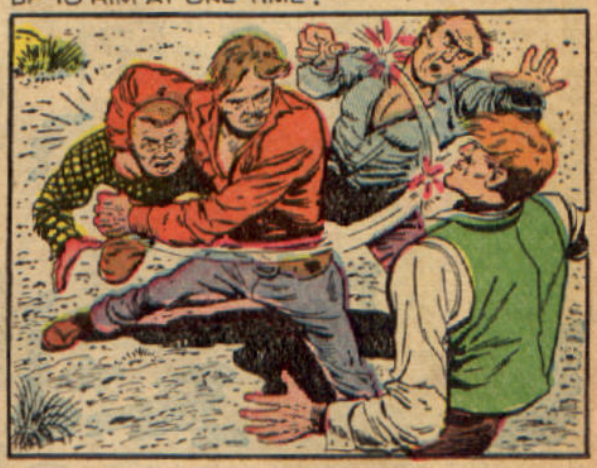

WHEN THE ROUGH-AND-READY STRANGER QUITS THE SALOON —
WE'LL TRAIL HIM TILL I GIVE THUH WORD...
NOW!
HEY!
WHEW! HE'S EVEN TOUGHER'N I THOUGHT! HADDA WHAM HIM MORE'N A DOZEN TIMES BEFORE HE BLACKED OUT!
Y-YUH SURE HE'S TIED UP REAL TIGHT? I'D HATE TO HAVE HIM GIT LOOSE ON THE WAY TO THUH HIDEOUT!
LATER—
WHY I'LL-!
TAKE IT EASY, STRANGER! WE GOT A DOZEN ARMED GUARDS AT THUH ENTRANCE TO THIS BOX CANYON! AN' THERE'S MORE GUNS AIMED AT YORE BELLY RIGHT NOW THAN A MONGREL'S GOT FLEAS! NOW LISTEN WHILE I MAKE YUH A PROPOSITION!
YUH GOT YORE CHOICE! EITHER WE SHOOT YUH FULL OF HOLES... OR YUH AGREE TO GUN DOWN THUH GHOST RIDER FER US! WHICH WILL IT BE?
FOR A LONG MOMENT, THE STRANGER SAYS NOTHING AT ALL. THEN—
I'M YORE MAN! WHAR DOES THIS GHOST RIDER HANG OUT?
NOT SO FAST— THAR'S NOT GONNA BE ANY SLIP-UPS! BEFORE YUH TACKLE HIM, YUH'RE GONNA GO INTO TRAININ'!
SO THE TRAINING STARTS! AND FIRST THE STRANGER SHOWS HOW HE CAN HANDLE HIS SIX-SHOOTERS...
... BY SCORING A PERFECT GROUP ON A MOVING TARGET PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE THE GHOST RIDER!

NEXT, HIS LARIAT WHIPS THROUGH THE AIR LIKE AN ANGRY SNAKE...



...AND COILS AROUND A MOVING DUMMY PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE ***THE GHOST RIDER***!

AT FIST FIGHTING AND WRESTLING, THERE ARE NO **THREE MEN** IN THE GANG WHO CAN STAND UP TO HIM AT ONE TIME!



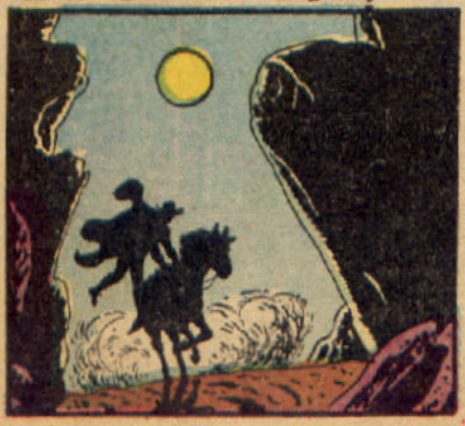




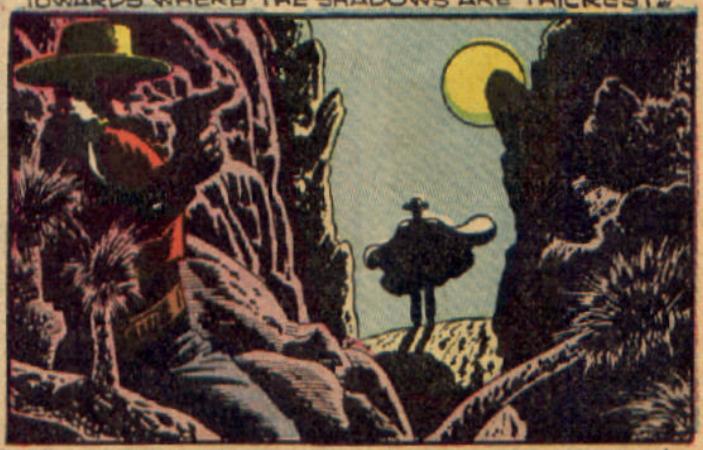
THAT NIGHT, A GRIM CHALLENGE IS TACKED TO THE DOOR OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN RED GULCH!



THE GHOST RIDER ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE! IT IS THE NEXT NIGHT NOW... AND THE SPECTRAL FOE OF EVIL IS PULLING REIN OUTSIDE MARSHAL GAP!

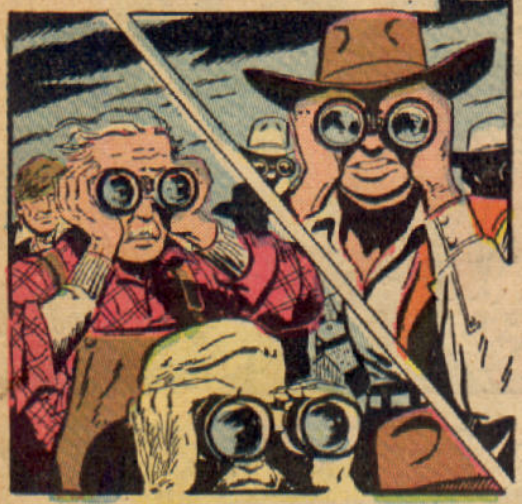


DISMOUNTED, HE ENTERS THE GAP AND WALKS TOWARDS WHERE THE SHADOWS ARE THICKEST...



...TOWARDS WHERE JEB HAWKINS STANDS WAITING!

ALL EYES IN THE TERRITORY ARE TRAINED ON MARSHAL GAP! THE LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE WATCH PRAYERFULLY... THE OWLHOOTS SNEER AS THEY RAISE THEIR FIELD GLASSES!



THEN-

CRACK! CRACK!

AND A MOMENT LATER—



HE GOT HIM, MEN! THAR AIN'T NOTHIN' TO STAND IN OUR WAY NOW! LET'S START BY TAKIN' OVER RED GULCH!

YIPPEEE!

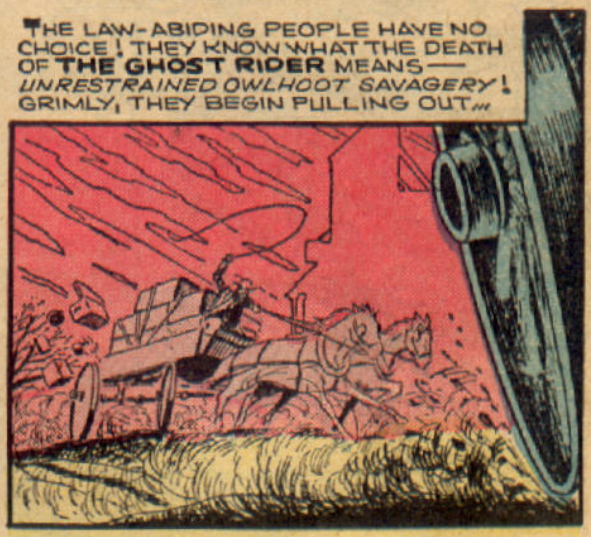
BLAM! BLAM!

YI YI! HOO HA!

HIYOO!



THE LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE HAVE NO CHOICE! THEY KNOW WHAT THE DEATH OF **THE GHOST RIDER** MEANS— *UNRESTRAINED OWLHOOT SAVAGERY*! GRIMLY, THEY BEGIN PULLING OUT...

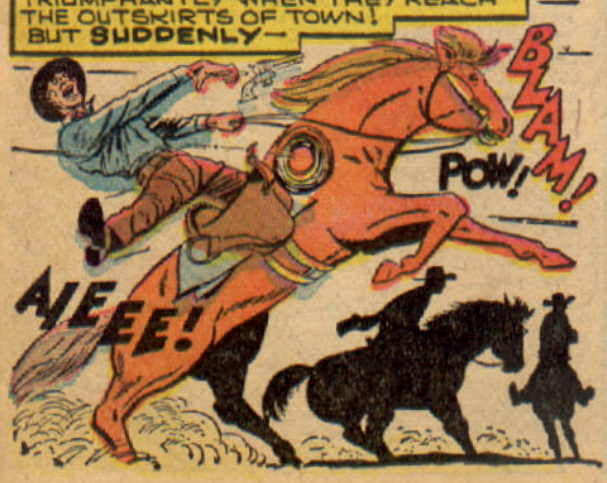


THE OWLHOOTS ARE STILL WHOOPING TRIUMPHANTLY WHEN THEY REACH THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN! BUT **SUDDENLY**—

BLAM!

POW!

AIEEE!

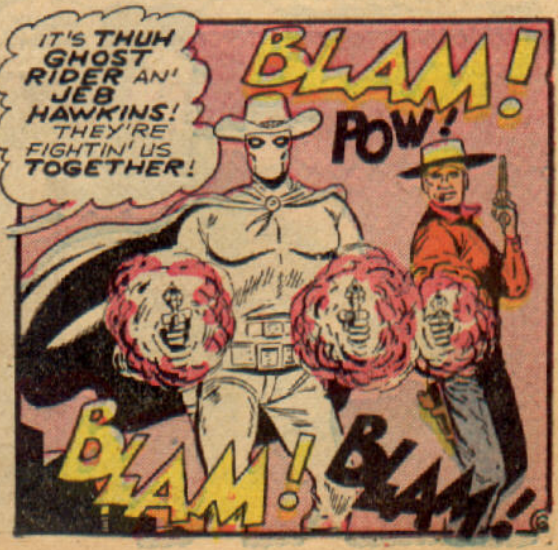


IT'S **THUH GHOST RIDER** AN' **JEB HAWKINS!** THEY'RE FIGHTIN' US **TOGETHER!**

BLAM!

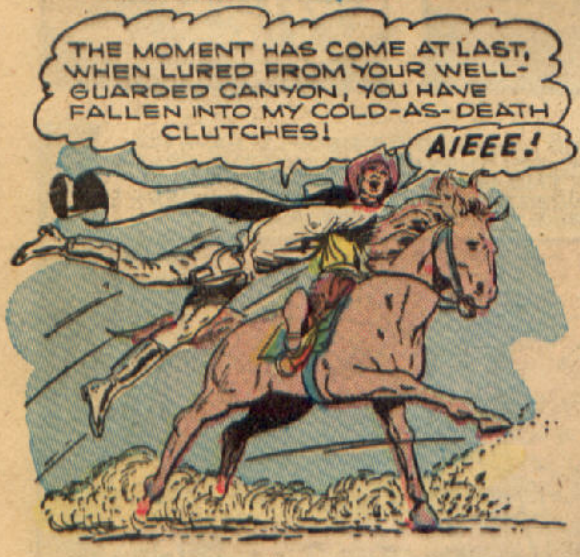
POW!

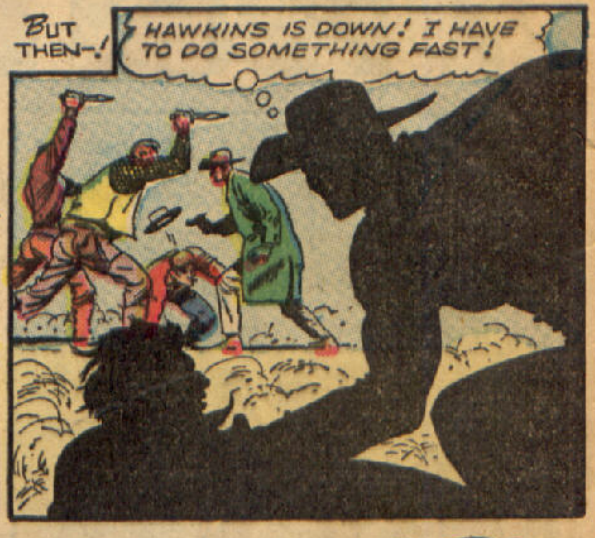
BLAM! BLAM!



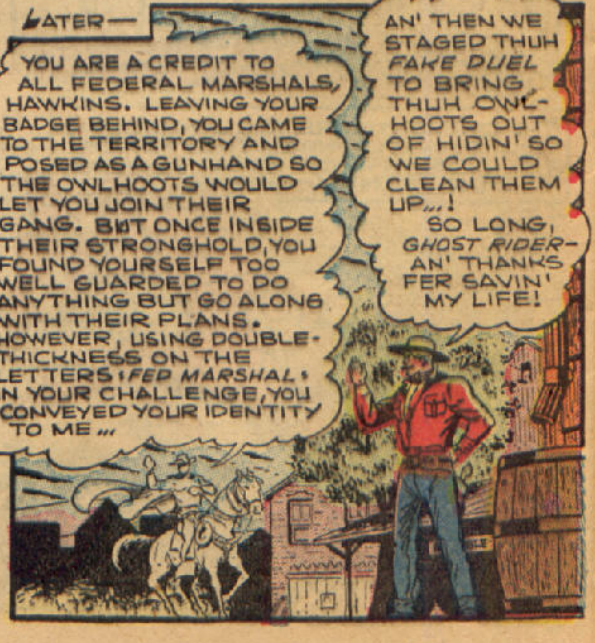

DON'T PANIC, MEN! IF WE KEEP OUR HEADS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GIT THEM BOTH! HANK, TAKE A GROUP AROUND THUH BACK — AN' WE'LL RUSH THEM FROM ALL SIDES!

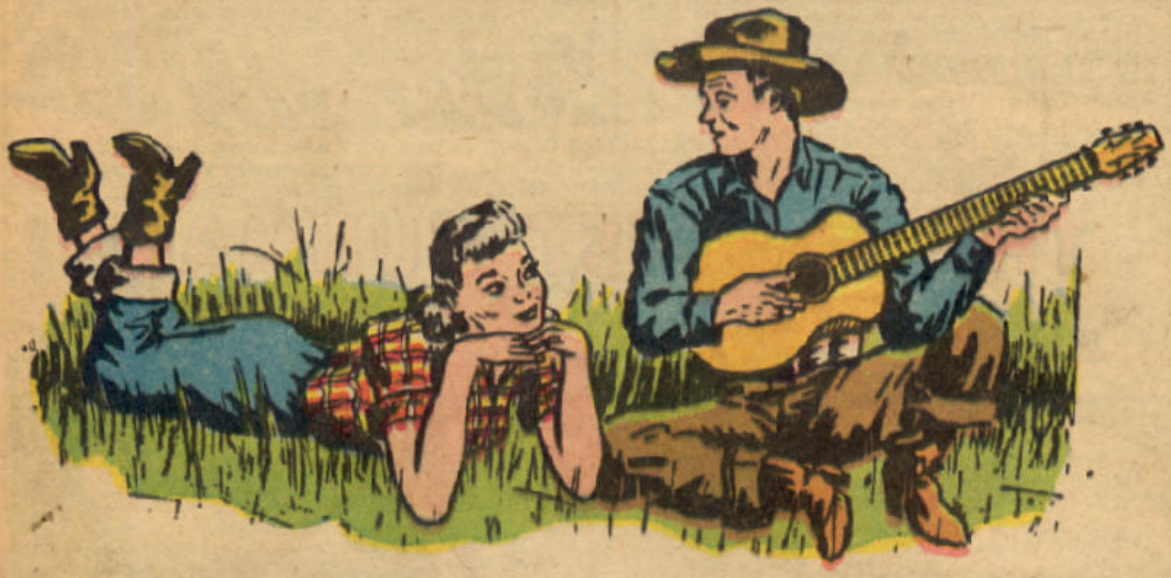

BUT THE GHOST RIDER AND HAWKINS, STANDING BACK TO BACK, KEEP SPRAYING LEAD WITH AWESOME ACCURACY!
CRACK!
CRACK!


THE MOMENT HAS COME AT LAST, WHEN LURED FROM YOUR WELL-GUARDED CANYON, YOU HAVE FALLEN INTO MY COLD-AS-DEATH CLUTCHES!
AIEEE!


BUT THEN—!
HAWKINS IS DOWN! I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FAST!


MY BLACK LARIAT CANNOT BE SEEN IN THE DARK... BUT ITS FLIGHT IS TRUE AND SWIFT AS A FALCON'S!
OWW!
HEY!
WHUT THUH?


LATER—
YOU ARE A CREDIT TO ALL FEDERAL MARSHALS, HAWKINS. LEAVING YOUR BADGE BEHIND, YOU CAME TO THE TERRITORY AND POSED AS A GUNHAND SO THE OWLHOOTS WOULD LET YOU JOIN THEIR GANG. BUT ONCE INSIDE THEIR STRONGHOLD, YOU FOUND YOURSELF TOO WELL GUARDED TO DO ANYTHING BUT GO ALONG WITH THEIR PLANS. HOWEVER, USING DOUBLE-THICKNESS ON THE LETTERS 'FED MARSHAL' IN YOUR CHALLENGE, YOU CONVEYED YOUR IDENTITY TO ME...
AN' THEN WE STAGED THUH FAKE DUEL TO BRING THUH OWLHOOTS OUT OF HIDIN' SO WE COULD CLEAN THEM UP...!
SO LONG, GHOST RIDER— AN' THANKS FER SAVIN' MY LIFE!



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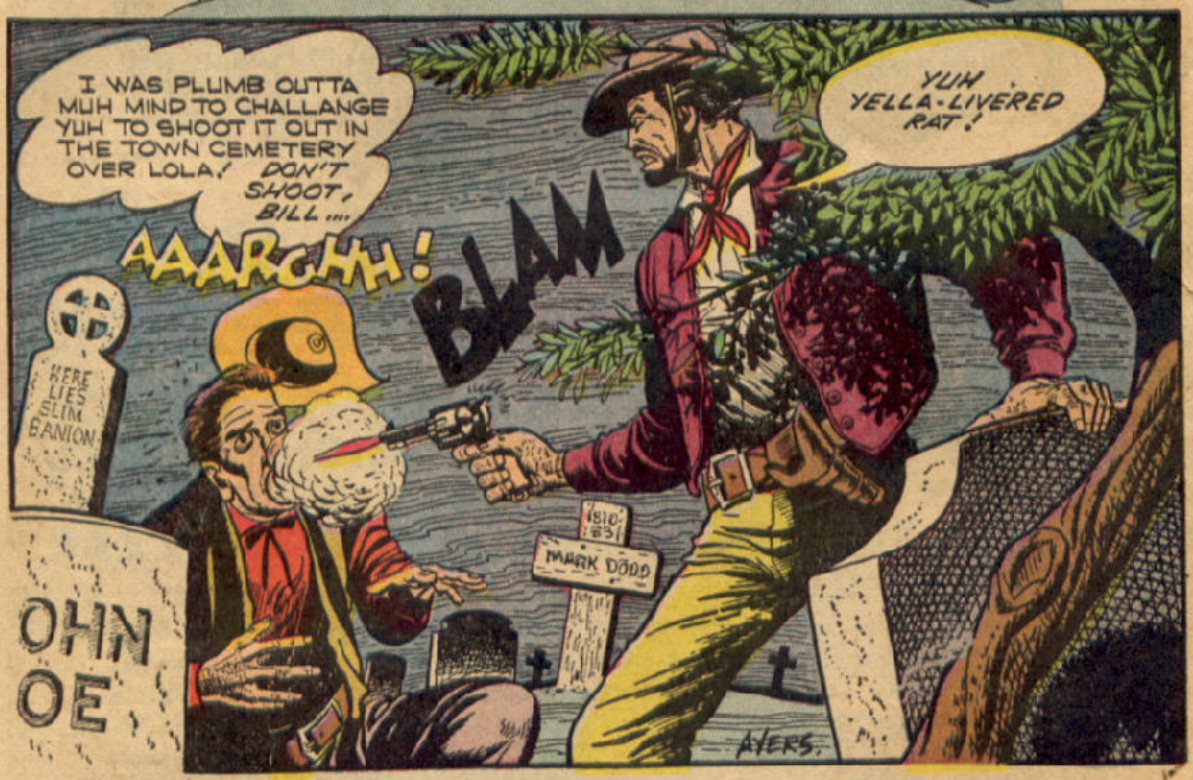
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TALES of the GHOST RIDER

DEATH— THE DREAD FINALITY OF A MOULDERING GRAVE — WAS BUT INSTANTS AWAY FROM CRAVEN, DYING LAFE FOGARTY! AND THEN IT CAME... THE OPPORTUNITY TO *LIVE* AGAIN— AND BECOME AN INVINCIBLE KILLER! THUS BEGAN THE EERIE TALE OF....

THE FASTEST GUNMAN in the CEMETARY!





LAFE LIES ALONE IN THE ENSHROUDING DARKNESS OF THE GRAVEYARD ...ALONE EXCEPT FOR HIS TERROR AND THE SHADOW OF APPROACHING DEATH! AND AS HIS LIFE-BLOOD STAINS THE SOIL, LAFE HYSTERICALLY SOBS A DIRGE OF DESPAIR...







DESPERATE AS HE IS TO CLING TO THIS MORTAL EXISTENCE, LAFE CANNOT HELP EXPERIENCING A CHILLING DOUBT AS HE STARES AT THE ENIGMATICALLY SMIRKING APPARITION...





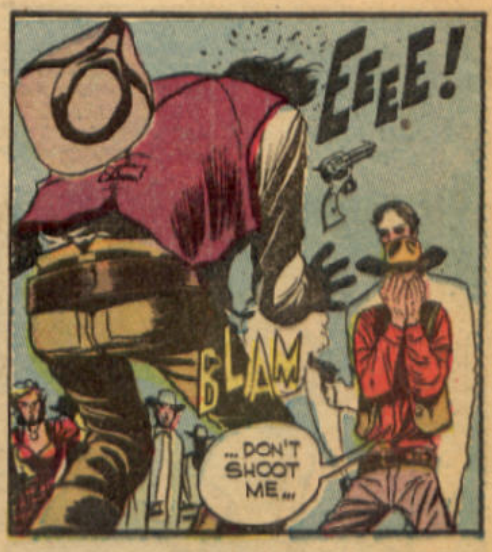




AND AS LAFE JUBILANTLY STRIDES OUT OF THE CEMETERY, STUNNED BY THE MIRACULOUS OCCURENCE...




LATER — OUTSIDE THE HAPPY CHANCE SALOON...
TARNATION! I THOUGHT I'D KILLED YUH... PERMANENT! NOW I'LL FINISH THUH JOB!
NO, BILL! DON'T SH-SHOOT M-ME AGAIN!
SALOON


EEEE!
BLAM
...DON'T SHOOT ME...


?!!
OH-HH, I GIT IT NOW!
DIDJA SEE THET?!
LAFE DREW, FIRED, AND PUT AWAY HIS GUNS SO FAST, IT LOOKED LIKE HE WARN'T EVEN TOUCHIN' 'EM!
WOW! HE'S THUH FASTEST GUNMAN ALIVE!

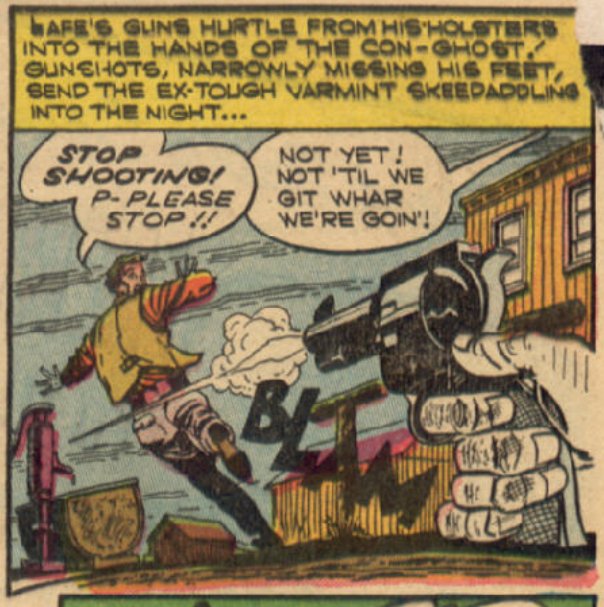

LAFE, HONEY, I'M GLAD YOU WON THE GUNFIGHT! YOU'RE MY KIND OF.... YAW-WP!
GIT AWAY FROM ME, LOLA! WITH THUH REP I GIT FROM THIS HERE GUN-BATTLE, THUH GALS WILL FIGHT TO BE SEEN WITH LAFE FOGARTY!


A PREDICTION THAT COMES TRUE! BUT LAFE'S NEW REPUTATION AS DANGEROUS KILLER GOES TO HIS HEAD. TO GAIN EVEN GREATER EMINENCE, HE ENGAGES IN AN EVER-INCREASING SERIES OF GUN-DUELS...
HEE! HEE!
LOOK! NO HANDS!


LAFE FOGARTY, SNIVELLING COWARD, BECOMES KNOWN AS THE FASTEST, MOST DEADLY GUN-MAN IN ALL THE WEST!
HAW! LOOKIT 'EM CROSSIN' THUH STREET TO AVOID ME, LIKE SKEERED JACK-RABBITS! BET THEY'D JUMP CLEAR OUTTA THEIR SKIN IF I SNAPPED MUH FINGERS! HAW!


COWED STOREKEEPERS AND CATTLEMEN PAY LAFE HUGE SUMS TO STAY AWAY FROM THEM. BUT, FINALLY, THERE ARRIVES A FATEFUL NIGHT OF RECKONING!
DIDN'T I TELL YUH TO QUIT HANGIN' AROUND? WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?
THUH YEAR IS UP, LAFE!.... YUH'VE HAD YER FUN!.... NOW I'VE COME TO COLLECT!





LAFE CHARGES ALONG IN A MAD FRENZY OF FEAR. SUDDENLY, AS THE CHASE ENDS, HE BECOMES SICKENINGLY AWARE OF HIS SURROUNDINGS...





OUT OF THE CEMETERY JAUNTILY STROLLS THE MATERIAL FORM OF SLIM BANION!



...BACK IN THE CEMETERY, UNDER THE MERCILESSLY REVEALING LIGHT OF A PALE MOON, THE DISEMBODIED SPIRIT THAT HAD ONCE BEEN LAFE FOGARTY, YAMMERS AND MOANS AND HOWLS IN HELPLESS FURY!




SWINDLED! GYPPED! I'VE BIN BILKED OUTTA MUH BODY!
POOR LAFE! HE DIDN'T HAVE A GHOST OF A CHANCE, DID HE? HA HA HA HAAAAA

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